FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-209
Monday
30 October 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-209 *30 October 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Middle East, North Africa Economic Summit Begins 1
Jordanian Prince on Goals of Summit *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Oct]* 1
Amman Radio Reports Summit Preparations 2
Summit Attendees' Arrival in Amman Reported 3
Qatari Delegate Arrives, Comments *[Amman Radio]* 3
27-28 Oct Arrivals Reported *[Amman Radio]* 3
Israel's Uri Savir Arrives *[Amman TV]* 4
29 Oct Arrivals Reported *[Amman Radio]* 4
Conference Delegates Comment on Various Issues 5
Jordan's Bin-Shakir on Syria, Lebanon *[Amman TV]* 5
Egypt's Musa on Regional Cooperation *[Cairo International]* 5
King Husayn Holds Sideline Meetings at Conference 6
Receives Saudi Minister *[Amman TV]* 6
Meets With Christopher, Rabin, Peres *[Amman TV]* 6
Receives Japan, Russia, U.S. Officials *[Amman Radio]* 7
Delegates Hold Meetings on Conference Sidelines 7
Peres, Musa Discuss Bilateral Issues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
'Arafat Meets Christopher, Qatari Minister *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Arafat Receives Swiss, PRC Ministers *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Major Figures Address Amman Economic Conference 8
King Husayn Opens Session *[Amman TV]* 8
Russia's Kozyrev Gives Speech *[Amman TV]* 10
'Arafat Delivers Speech *[Amman TV]* 10
Rabin Addresses Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
King Husayn on Palestinian Issue *[Amman TV]* 14
Peres Speaks at Opening Session *[Amman TV]* 14
Egypt's Musa Gives Speech *[MENA]* 15
Damascus Radio: King Husayn 'Annoyed' by Musa 17
Musa Views King Husyan's Speech, Clarifies Remarks *[MENA]* 17
Mubarak Said To Ask Egypt To Withdraw From Summit *[AL-BILAD 1 Nov]* 17
Summit Activities Reported for 30 Oct *[Amman Radio]* 18
Draft of Amman Economic Summit Declaration *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Oct]* 18
Amman Delegates Reach Accord on Development Bank *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Oct]* 20
Jordanian Paper Notes 'Disturbing' Factors at Summit *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Oct]* 21

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Parliamentary Union Condemns U.S. Vote *[Rabat TV]* 21

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi Murdered in Malta 22
Statement Issued on Assassination *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 22
Movement Official Describes Assassination *[Tehran International]* 22
Islamic Jihad: We Will Take Revenge *[AFP]* 22

Islamic Jihad Leader on Avenge From Abroad *[London INDEPENDENT 30 Oct]* 23
Al-Shaqaqi Mourned; 'Abdallah Elected Leader *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 23
Statement Confirms 'Abdallah New Leader *[Jericho VOP]* 24
Ramadan 'Abdallah Vows Revenge *[IRNA]* 25
IRNA Says Rashad Qasim To Lead Movement 25
Islamic Jihad Figures Comment on Killing *[AFP]* 25
Gaza Islamic Jihad Claims CIA Involved *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Strike Declared in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Thousands of Supporters Riot on Gaza Border *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
PFLP-GC, Hamas Denounce Assassination *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 26
Hamas Blames Rabin for Assassination *[AFP]* 27
Information Ministry Denounces Assassination *[Jericho VOP]* 27
PA Avoids Blaming Israel *[AFP]* 27

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Booby-Trapped Truck Explodes Near Algiers *[AFP]* 28
Blast Kills 6, Wounds 83 *[Algiers Radio]* 28
FLN Secretary General Criticizes French Policy *[Hamburg DIE WOCHE 27 Oct]* 28

Egypt

Mubarak on Embassy Move, Elections, Economy *[Cairo Radio]* 28
Mubarak Praises Jordanian, Palestinian Peace Efforts *[MENA]* 31
'Arafat Meets With Muslim Brotherhood Leader *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Oct]* 31
MB Spokesman on Amman Summit, Jerusalem Bill *[Tehran Radio]* 32
Jihad Says Croatia Extradited 'Militant' Leader *[AFP]* 32
Al-Azhar Shaykh Denounces U.S. Embassy Move *[MENA]* 33
'Broad Agreement' Reached on Barcelona Document *[Madrid EFE]* 34
French Minister Discusses Fight Against 'Terrorism' *[MENA]* 34

Libya

Unity Committee Denounces Amman Economic Summit *[Tripoli Radio]* 35
JANA Editor Condemns Amman Summit *[Tripoli TV]* 35
Al-Qadhdhafi Holds News Conference *[Tripoli TV]* 36

Morocco

King Hassan's Health 'Rapidly Improving' *[MAP]* 44

Tunisia

Ben Ali Promises Opposition Leader's Release *[Madrid EL PAIS 27 Oct]* 45

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government Expresses 'Regret' on U.S. Embassy Move *[KUNA]* 46
Iraqi Air Force Captain Questioned on Asylum Bid *[AFP]* 46

Qatar

Amir: Selling Gas to Israel Linked to Peace Process *[Jericho VOP]* 46

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Holds News Conference in Washington *[Riyadh TV]* 46

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Visits 47
Arrives in Riyadh *[SPA]* 47
Meets With Crown Prince *[Riyadh Radio]* 47
Holds News Conference *[SPA]* 47
Departs Jeddah *[SPA]* 48
King Orders Compensation for Mosque Bombing Victims *[Riyadh TV]* 48

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses 38th Cabinet Session *[Baghdad TV]* 49
Saddam Addresses Officials on Referendum *[Baghdad TV]* 54
Saddam Chairs Joint Iraq Command-RCC Meeting *[INA]* 57
'Aziz Sends Message to UN's Butrus-Ghali *[INA]* 57
Vice President Discuss Sanctions Lifting With UN Chief *[Mother of Battles Radio]* 58
Authorities Release Kuwaiti, Saudi Nationals *[KUNA]* 58
Defector Husayn Kamil Denies Returning to Iraq *[London MBC TV]* 59

ISRAEL

Rabin 'Not Sorry' About al-Shaqaqi Murder *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Peres Comments on al-Shaqaqi Killing, Syria Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Cabinet Discusses al-Shaqaqi's Murder, Syria Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 60
Security Forces Step Up Alert After Assassination *[Jerusalem Radio]* 61
Security Measures Stepped Up in Fear of Reprisals *[Jerusalem Radio]* 61
Al-Shaqaqi Death Leads to Hebron Riots, Strikes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 62
Press Hails al-Shaqaqi Murder, Warns of Revenge *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Oct, etc]* 62
Peres on Mideast Bank, Syria, Peace Process *[Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE 27 Oct]* 63
Hopes High for Gas Deal With Qatar During Summit *[AFP]* 64

JORDAN

U.S. Embassy Move 'Serious Threat' to Peace *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Oct]* 65
Al-Shaqaqi Murder Said Aimed To Stop Redeployment *[AL-DUSTUR 30 Oct]* 65

LEBANON

Dallul: Embassy Move 'Harms' U.S. Interests *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for Syria *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Al-Hariri Reiterates Nation's Stance on Peace *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Speaker Birri Returns From Damascus Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Israeli Navy Reportedly Abducts 3 Fishermen *[Beirut Radio]* 66
Fishermen Released *[VOL]* 66
Hizballah Chief on Policies, Israeli Limitations *[VOL]* 66
Hizballah 'To Cut Off' Hands of 'Israeli Terrorism' *[VOL]* 68
Hizballah Condemns 'Terrorism' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 68
Conditions Put 'Wedge' Between State, 'Resistance' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 68
Israeli Artillery Bombards Southern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 68

SYRIA

Reaction to U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem 69
'Official Spokesman' Comments *[SANA]* 69
People's Assembly Denounces Move *[Damascus TV]* 69
AL-THAWRAH Assails U.S. Congress *[Damascus Radio]* 69
Move 'Insult' to Clinton *[SANA]* 70

U.S. Urged To 'Drop' Relocation *[Damascus Radio]* 71
U.S. Secretary of State's Visit Previewed 72
Israeli 'Skepticism' Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 72
Reaction to Peres' Remarks Viewed *[Paris Radio]* 72
Israeli Comments Criticized *[SANA]* 72
Christopher's Statements Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 73
Christopher Cited on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 73
Christopher, Delegation Meet With al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 73
Al-Asad: Israel 'Not Ready for Peace' at Present *[Damascus TV]* 73
Israeli 'Obstacles' Hinder Breakthrough *[Damascus Radio]* 74
Information Minister: Nation Cannot Be Sidestepped *[MENA]* 74
'Dangers' of Summit, Israeli Motives Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 75
Constructive European Role in Peace Welcomed *[Damscus Radio]* 75
Troika Delegation Leader Holds News Conference *[SANA]* 75

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Said Poised To Retake Town of Bamian *[AFP]* 77
Taleban, Government Forces Clash in Western Kabul *[Tehran International]* 77
Islamic Army Claims Defeat of Taleban Near Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 77
Flights To Kabul Airport Said Temporarily Suspended *[AFP]* 78
Airport Said Closed After Attack *[Tehran International]* 78
Radio Reports on Taleban, Government Clashes *[Tehran International]* 78
Taleban Ammunition Convoy Destroyed, 100 Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 79
Minister Urges UN To End Foreign Intervention *[Tehran International]* 79
Pakistan National Party Sends Message of Support *[Kabul Radio]* 79
Radio on Pakistan Minister's 'Ill Intentions' *[Kabul Radio]* 79

India

Rao Comments on Issues Raised by Islamabad, Dhaka *[Delhi Radio]* 80
Advani Criticizes U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 80
No Information Reported on Tamil Tigers Chief *[AFP]* 80
Commandos Said Preventing Sri Lankan Rebels' Entry *[Delhi Radio]* 80
Kashmiri Leader Survives Assassination Attempt *[AFP]* 81

Iran

Rafsanjani Addresses U.S. Move on Jerusalem Embassy *[Tehran TV]* 81
Ambassador in Damascus Condemns U.S. Embassy Bill *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 81
Economic Conference Said Failing Over Embassy Move *[Tehran Radio]* 82
Rowhani: Gingrich Proposal 'Immature and Childish' *[IRNA]* 82
UN Envoy Comments on Gingrich Plan *[IRNA]* 82
Commentary Views Gingrich 'Plot' *[Tehran International]* 83
Daily Notes U.S. Aim of Peace Process Domination *[IRNA]* 83
Officials Comment on, React to al-Shaqaqi Death 84
Foreign Ministry Condemns Death *[IRNA]* 84
Nateq-Nuri Comments on 'Inhuman Act' *[Tehran TV]* 84
Velayati Urges International Action *[IRNA]* 85
Islamic Jihad Pledges 'Revenge' *[IRNA]* 85
'Palestine' Committee Condemns 'Martyrdom' *[Tehran Radio]* 86
IPO Issues Statement on Assassination *[Tehran Radio]* 86
Rabin Reportedly Pleased After al-Shaqaqi Death *[Tehran Radio]* 86

Al-Shaqaqi Death Said To Show Zionist 'Terrorism' *[Tehran Radio]* 86
Radio Denounces 'Government-Sponsored Terrorism' *[Tehran Radio]* 87
Diplomat in Argentina Terms Attack 'Terrorist Act' *[IRNA]* 87
Official to Argentina After Assassination Attempt *[Tehran Radio]* 88
Nateq-Nuri Said Optimistic on Ties With Europe *[IRNA]* 88
Student Union Calls For Nationwide 4 Nov Rallies *[IRNA]* 89
Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons *[Tehran International]* 89
Demands Justice for Bosnian Muslims *[Tehran International]* 89
Rafsanjani Meets Intelligence Ministry Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 92
Khamene'i Addresses Role of Television, Music *[Tehran TV]* 92

Pakistan

Leghari Outlines Domestic, Foreign Policies *[Islamabad TV]* 93
India Reportedly Decides To Resume Missile Program *[Islamabad Radio]* 97
Kabul Said Preparing To Send 'Subversive Elements' *[JANG 27 Oct]* 98
Minister Denies Involvement in Chechnya Fighting *[Islamabad Radio]* 98

Sri Lanka

President Reportedly Rules Out Peace Initiatives *[AFP]* 99
Military Spokesman Says LTTE Heading for Defeat *[Colombo International]* 99
Tigers Reportedly Call For 'Foreign Mediation' *[AFP]* 99
Minister Said Intended Target of 'Terrorist' Attack *[DAILY NEWS 28 Oct]* 100
Further on Uncovered 'Plot' *[AFP]* 100
Gunmen Kill Tamil Deputy Mayor in Batticaloa *[AFP]* 101
Top LTTE Leaders Flee as Operation Continues *[Colombo International]* 101
Security Forces Resume Operation *[AFP]* 102
AFP Reports on Continued Fighting Near Jaffna 102

Middle East, North Africa Economic Summit Begins

Jordanian Prince on Goals of Summit

JN2910200195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 95 pp 3, 9

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand; all quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan expects the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference opening today in Amman to serve as a concerted, regionally and internationally supported effort to redress the imbalances resulting from the decades of conflict in the region. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said.

The Kingdom is seeking a "qualitative (and) sophisticated relationship with the international community, contributing to the global as well as the specific," said the Crown Prince in an interview on the eve of the opening of the three-day conference in Amman Describing the conference as unprecedented in terms of the more-than expected high-level of international participation as well as the focus and objective of the gathering, the Crown Prince referred to the favourable treatment that the international community had been extending to Israel as a country existing among hostile neighbours.

"The quid pro quo of the past was that we will deal with Israel because it is isolated in the region (and) we will offer preferential arrangement (like) MFN (most favoured nation status) in compensation for the ostracising (of Israel) that the region has been responsible for in the eyes of the industrialised world," the Crown Prince told the JORDAN TIMES. "Now the time has come to say to the international community that we have signed a full peace agreement in transparency and are working towards political and social stability (and it) means the need to identifying the legitimate aspirations of all without discrimination." The Crown Prince said. "The quality of life for all should improve without discrimination." Reaffirming the quest for a "partnership" between the private and public sectors where the funds will come from businessmen while the government would do whatever it could to help facilitate private sector activities, the Crown prince said there had been a "mobilisation" of official and private sector forces in the country in preparation for the MENA summit.

He expressed hope that "this mobilisation will live with us" as the Kingdom gets more engaged in liberalising the economy and shifting the onus onto the private sector. In any event, new "management concepts" are steadily flowing inwards as part of the process of change that the country has adopted.

The Crown Prince cited as an example the proposed expansion and joint Jordanian-Israeli management of Aqaba airport as a strong sign of the change in thinking in the country.

The very idea of a "binational" airport reflects the Jordanian acceptance of new concepts in economic management, he said.

Implicitly conceding that bringing about sweeping changes to make the country completely equitable with the economic environment of the advanced world would take years to achieve, the Crown Prince pointed out that international investors were not focusing on the local Jordanian market on its own anyway but was more interested in using Jordan as a trade hub and a transit route.

As such, the Jordanian strategy in this context is to offer the most suitable environment with the least impediments to investors who could use the facilities available in the Kingdom to do business in the region, which offers a much larger market.

The emphasis being given to developing the Jordan Rift Valley and offering it as a special economic zone for businesses with a minimal regulatory environment, the Crown Prince said, was an example of how a region could tell international investors that "this is the environment that I'm giving you (and) do try your best to internationalise that environment."

The Crown Prince summarily rejected arguments put up by critics of the peace process and said: "My concern is that all these posturing is at the expense of focusing on the substance of future developments."

Underlining the vital need to show the man in the street that Jordanians are reaping the economic dividends of peace that reflect on everyone's life in the country before the skeptics gain ground in their argument on the absence of tangible changes in daily life, the Crown prince said: "Nothing succeeds like success." By the same token, "nothing succeeds like excess" either.

"Even with peace treaties between states, until the intern- communal issues have been addressed, there will be no stability," he said. The "inter-communal" issues, he explained, could mean "Palestinian-Israeli" as well as "Muslim-Christian Jewish."

On the political level, the question is, "who is going to address" these issues, he said. Will it be the state or will it be vested interests, he asked. The message to the man in the street in Jordan, the Crown prince said,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is that "there is a deliberate attempt to focus on" the real means to bring about an uplifting of the quality of life, through creating employment opportunities and boosting economic activities in the country. However, such a change will not occur overnight, he affirmed, noting that some of the big projects from among the $3.5 billion worth of proposals that Jordan would present to the summit would take time and effort to materialise.

If 1997 is a realistic (target) for maturing the gestation period of some of the projects," then one could say that "there should be a substantial increase in gross take-home pay for the employed by 1997-98," he said.

The crown prince referred to the dozens of new industrial units that have sprung up in an around Amman and elsewhere, partly from financing raised through the estimated $1 billion worth of new shares appearing at the stock market this year and cited them as a vivid example of the abilities of Jordan's human resources.

While the Middle East region indeed needs foreign technology, there is an much need for "moving the knowhow within the region," said the Crown Prince.

"I wonder how many Jordanians took time out to go through the tour" of industrial units that he recently undertook and found "many different nationalities working with young Jordanian talent in what I call a contract of generations," he said adding: "Critics are not prepared to accept a success story when they see one."

Amman Radio Reports Summit Preparations

JN2810183295 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Under the patronage of his majesty the king, the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit opens here in Amman tomorrow. His majesty will be giving a welcoming address at the opening ceremony. The conference is cochaired by the United States and Russia with the support of the European Union and Japan. Some 2,000 participants are taking part in the summit, in addition to about 600 local and foreign journalists who will cover various activities of this event.

During its three-day sessions, the conference will discuss the role of the world community in boosting and developing economies of the region, means of laying down a regional economic strategy of cooperation, and the benefits of free zones to reactivate trade movement. The conference will also debate matters related to infrastructure, trade cooperation among Middle Eastern countries, and the use of peace in the service of economic and social development.

The participating countries will present several regional projects related to telecommunication, transport, agriculture, tourism, and industry. The summit will also discuss the problem of water in the area and means to solve it. Jordan will present 27 projects worth $3.5 billion, in addition to special projects for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley amounting to $17 billion.

In the meantime, government and business leaders continued to arrive from around the world to attend the summit. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has just arrived, leading a large delegation representing the public and private sectors in his country. Indonesia's investment minister also flew in this afternoon, saying the summit is a positive step, since it allows participants to exchange viewpoints. He said his country is interested in developing its relationship with Jordan, especially in the field of tourism. Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahia also arrived in Amman to take part in the conference. In an arrival statement, Mr. Ben Yahia pointed out that peace and development in the region are the core of the summit which, he said, will be a turning point in the history of the Middle East. Kuwait also sent its official delegation to the summit. The team is led by Deputy Minister of Finance 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hunayf. [passage omitted] Later this afternoon, Italy's director of coordination at the Italian Foreign Ministry arrived in Amman. He told reporters his country will work, together with other European Union nations, to make the summit a success. He added that Italy would focus on regional projects relating to development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Malta's delegation also arrived in Amman to attend the summit. The 15-member delegation is led by Finance Minister John Dalli. [passage omitted]

Earlier in the afternoon, Mexico's assistant foreign minister arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge, leading his country's delegation to the summit. The delegation includes a number of Mexican businessmen who will hold several meetings with their Jordanian counterparts.

A group of American and Uruguayan businessmen also flew in to conduct a series of meetings at the conference. This evening, Irish Minister of Health Michael Noonan arrived in Amman leading his country's delegation to the summit. [passage omitted]

Also this evening, British Trade Minister Antony Nelson, Pakistani Minister of Trade Ahmed Mukhtar, and Brunei's minister of development, in addition to the Algerian secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, arrived to take part in the economic summit. [In a related development, Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic reports on 28 October at 1620 GMT the arrival of Egyptian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the PRC deputy foreign minister to take part in the summit]

Summit Attendees' Arrival in Amman Reported

Qatari Delegate Arrives, Comments

JN2710195095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Participants in the upcoming Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit are pouring into Amman for Sunday's [29 October] gathering. Government representatives and leading businessmen from more than 60 world nations are expected to attended the three-day conference designed to prop up economic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

A Saudi delegation, led by Minister of Trade Usamah Bin-Ja'far al-Faqih, has just arrived to take part in the summit. Earlier this afternoon, a team representing Qatar's private sector and led by Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, also arrived to participate in the gathering. In an interview with Radio Jordan's Hamzah al-Shuraydah, Shaykh Hamid Bin-Jasim gave details on the projects his team is going to present to the conference.

[Begin recording] [Al Thani] We have brought in a lot of projects with us, which we hope that Jordanians will participate with us in Qatar. And in Qatar, we have a lot of Jordanian population, who are participating in all kinds of business, in industry, contracting, trading, and civil servants as well.

[Al-Shuraydah] What kind of plans do you want to present at the Amman economic summit?

[Al Thani] We have projects, over 22 projects, which are going to present to the Amman summit. They range between petrochemicals, steel, cement, and all kinds of things.

[Al-Shuraydah] Have you got any projects related to tourism in Jordan?

[Al Thani] No. We don't have any touristic projects.

[Al-Shuraydah] Have you got any other regional projects related to the region of the Middle East?

[Al Thani] All the projects we are presenting are feasible projects which can be implemented in Qatar, which Qatar has an advantage or a marginal advantage to other countries, which is based on petrochemicals or gas. [end recording]

Qatar's Foreign Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Al Thani is expected to arrive tomorrow to chair the delegation to the summit.

Earlier this afternoon, the Palestinian delegation of businessmen from the private sector arrived in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge to participate in the summit. Also arriving for the summit today was Singapore's delegation.

On his arrival in Amman, the ambassador of New Zealand in Turkey expressed his pleasure to visit Jordan to represent his country in the Amman summit. He stressed that this participation is an evidence of New Zealand's interest to follow up on the development efforts in this part of the world. [passage omitted]

27-28 Oct Arrivals Reported

JN2810135195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic and Amman Radio Jordan Network in English on 27 and 28 October carried in their scheduled newscasts and news summaries reports on the arrival in Amman of Arab and foreign delegations to participate in the coming Middle East and North Africa [MENA] economic summit, which will begin in Amman on 29 October.

The delegations which arrived in Amman on 27 October to attend the economic summit are as follows:

1. The Yemeni deputy prime minister, the Yemeni Foreign Ministry's under secretary for political affairs, and secretary of the Yemeni public authority for free zones in Yemen, as well as a number of Yemeni businessmen.

2. The Canadian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet.

3. The Singapore delegation, led by chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the Singapore House of Representatives.

4. The Qatari economic delegation, headed by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, chairman of Qatar's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Yusuf Husayn Kamal, under secretary of the Qatari Ministry of Finance and Economy.

5. A Palestinian delegation, led by Majdi al-Khalid, under secretary of the Palestinian National Authority's Ministry of Planning. A trade delegation representing Gaza's Chamber of Commerce, led by Muhammad al-Qudwah, head of Gaza's Chamber of Commerce, as well as a number of private sector businessmen from the Palestinian self-rule areas.

6. New Zealand's ambassador to Turkey.

7. A Saudi delegation, led by Saudi Commerce Minister Usamah Bin-Ja'far al-Faqih.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

8. The Greek delegation, led by (Istasios Bionis), Greek minister of industry, energy, and technology. [title as heard]

9. The South Korean delegation, led by O Myong, minister of works and transportation.

10. The Norwegian delegation, led by (Eshpen Netsen), minister of development. [title as heard]

11. The Italian delegation, led by (Kwis Maria Scarbar), minister plenipotentiary at the Italian Foreign Ministry.

12. Delegates representing Egypt, Russia, and Turkey, as well as (Claus Schwab), head of the World Economic Forum.

As of filing time, the delegations which have thus far arrived in Amman on 28 October to participate in the MENA economic summit are as follows:

1. Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs.

2. The Malaysian delegation, led by Mustafa Mohamed, minister of administrative development.

3. The Mauritanian delegation, led by Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker.

4. The Omani delegation, led by Faysal Bin-'Ali Al Sa'id, minister of national heritage.

5. The Bahraini delegation, led by 'Ali Salih al-Salih, minister of commerce. [title as heard]

6. The Egyptian delegation, led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

7. The Qatari delegation, led by Shaykh Faysal Bin-Qasim Al Thani. It comprises private sector delegates.

8. The Chinese delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister (Tian Sing Be).

9. The Kuwaiti delegation, led by 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hanif, under secretary of the Finance Ministry.

10. Dr. Jasim Manna'i, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Monetary Fund.

Israel's Uri Savir Arrives

JN2810224195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic and Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic on 28 October carry in their scheduled newscasts at 1800 GMT and 1900 GMT more reports on the arrival of Arab and foreign delegations in Amman to participate in the Middle East and North Africa [MENA] economic summit, which will begin on 29 October.

The delegates who arrived on 28 October include: Moroccan Prime Minister al-Filali, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and the Romanian trade minister.

29 Oct Arrivals Reported

JN2910075295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in English and Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic on 29 October carry in their scheduled newscasts at 0500 GMT reports on the arrival of Arab and foreign delegations in Amman to take part in the Middle East and North Africa [MENA] economic summit. These include:

1. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who arrived at dawn on 29 October.

2. Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, who arrived at dawn on 29 October.

3. Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, who arrived on 29 October.

4. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived on 29 October.

5. World Bank Executive Manager Khalid al-Sa'd.

6. The Bulgarian delegation, led by Kiril Tsochev, minister of trade and foreign economic cooperation.

7. The Austrian delegation, led by the personal representative of the Austrian chancellor.

8. The Spanish delegation, led by the minister of foreign relations.

9. The Swiss delegation, led by the minister of state for economic affairs.

10. The Portuguese delegation, led by Carlos (Vizera), secretary general of the Prime Ministry.

11. The Slovenian delegation, led by Zoran Thaler, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

12. The Danish delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister (Ole Polsen).

13. The Croatian delegation, led by the director of trade and tourism.

14. The French delegation, led by Minister of Industry and Trade Yves Galland.

15. The Finnish delegation, led by the minister of industry and trade.

16. The German delegation, led by Minister of Economic Affairs Guenter Rexrodt, and the speaker of the German Parliament.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

17. The Slovak delegation, led by Jozef (Sistik).

18. The Cypriot delegation.

19. A delegation representing the Israeli private sector, led by the head of the Industrialist Syndicate.

20. The Dutch delegation, comprising the minister of foreign trade, the minister of development, and (Stein Andersen), a former minister.

21. The Czech delegation, led by the director general of the Czech Foreign Ministry.

22. The Polish Delegation, led by Minister of Industry and Trade Klemens Scierski.

23. The Japanese delegation, led by Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister (Yasu Fukuda).

24. Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, minister of foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates.

25. The Belgian delegation, led by Philippe Maystadt, minister of finance and foreign trade, as well as the Belgian deputy prime minister.

26. The Italian delegation, led by Susanna Agnelli, Italian minister of foreign affairs.

27. A delegation representing the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], comprising Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance and a number of PNA senior officials.

28. The Indonesian investment minister.

Conference Delegates Comment on Various Issues

Jordan's Bin-Shakir on Syria, Lebanon

JN2810181595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker and his delegation arrived in Amman today to take part in the Amman economic development conference. He was received by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent, in English] Will you tell us what Jordan expects at this conference, which is going to start tomorrow?

[Bin-Shakir, in English] We expect a very important gathering and we expect success in getting the economy of the region moving. We hope that there will be many who are interested in development projects, infrastructure projects, tourism projects. So, we are hoping that we will be able to come to agreements on many of these projects that we plan to present. There are other countries that are presenting projects also, and I hope it will not only be for Jordan, but also for many of the countries of the region. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, in English] Your Excellency Bin-Shakir, just one more question. The boycott of Syria and Lebanon of the regional conference, do you think that it is going to affect the conference negatively?

[Bin-Shakir, in English] I am sorry that they have boycotted this conference, but I do not think that it will have a negative effect on the process at all. [end recording]

Egypt's Musa on Regional Cooperation

NC2910083795 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by 'Azzah Hamdi in Amman; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hamdi] Your Excellency, please explain to us the significance of the huge Egyptian participation in the Amman economic summit.

[Musa] The huge Egyptian delegation reflects Egypt's weight in the Middle East and its interest in anything related to regional development. Egypt stresses its firm policy of linking peace with regional economic cooperation and security. By security, we mean establishing a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. These comprise the main pillars of any regional order, and the Middle East regional order, as we see it.

Peace is now moving on all fronts, or tracks, although at varying speeds. Without the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement, under which Israel will evacuate West Bank cities and towns and preparations will be made for the first Palestinian parliamentary elections in history...[pauses] all this allowed this summit to convene.

Our link between peace and regional cooperation is dynamic. That is, we see progress on the Palestinian track, and we sense movement on the Syrian track. The Lebanese track must also get moving as we march ahead. So, this progress in the peace process can be paralleled by progress on economic cooperation. The subject that is stalled — and our position on it is clear and decisive — is the subject of weapons of mass destruction. Here, and within the framework of the multilateral negotiations, our position is that Israel's agenda on this cannot be accepted unless Egypt's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

agenda is accepted. There is a certain dynamism, although it is not vigorous enough. The link between peace and economic cooperation is a dynamic link, not a stagnant one; that is, we should not wait for the signing of the last [Arab-Israeli] agreement to start regional cooperation. This is not decided by us alone. There is an international movement, and the region is part of it. What we can do is control the rhythm of the regional movement in the way we deem fit; that is, link it dynamically with peace: when we have progress on the Palestinian track, movement on the Syrian track, and we move toward regional cooperation and start moving on the security issue, et cetera.

[Hamdi] Mr. Minister, at the Casablanca summit, some projects were proposed. Can we expect the Amman summit to implement and follow up some of these projects?

[Musa] Certain things have become clear. We do not mind discussing specific projects as long as there is a common interest for us and for others. There are active moves in the areas of energy, electricity, petroleum, gas, and tourism. There is much progress in the area of tourism cooperation. Tourists who want to come to the region from far away — the Far East, United States, Latin America — must be offered so-called package [preceding word in English] trips to tour the various countries of the region. You cannot ask a tourist to visit only your country; otherwise he will not come. We must be practical, not purely theoretical. But things must be governed by accurate political, security, and economic rules, and this is what we are doing. So, in the area of tourism, for example, you must know your limits. You determine your maximum and minimum margins of movement and act accordingly. Regarding investment and the proposed regional projects, you must not forget that if you do not offer regional projects, others will; the money is there. So you have to see how to do these things and how to coordinate.

I would like to add an important point here: In preparing for all this, there must be a [unified] Arab position involving the Arab countries; the members of the Arab League that spoke about free zones, cooperation, and coordination; and a common Arab market. It is important to activate this, and this does not conflict with regional cooperation.

[Hamdi] Mr. Minister, can we expect another economic summit?

[Musa] The economic summit activates the peace process. This is a dynamic two-way issue: Peace leads to economic cooperation and economic cooperation — or insistence on it — speeds up the peace process. So you can expect another summit, and you can expect it in Cairo.

King Husayn Holds Sideline Meetings at Conference

Receives Saudi Minister

JN2810200195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Aug 9 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Saudi Minister of Commerce Usamah Bin-Ja'far al-Faqih, who handed his majesty a letter from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-a-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The Saudi minister also conveyed to his majesty the greetings of the custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz. Talks centered on relations between the two fraternal countries.

His majesty and the guest minister reviewed the positive results of talks held in New York between his majesty the king and His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'-'Aziz. The two sides stressed the need to restore normal relations between the two fraternal countries. They also voiced their desire to upgrade relations to the highest levels through the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al- Qasim and the Jordanian ambassador in Riyadh. It was attended on the Saudi side by Muhammad Ma'mun Kurdi, Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic and cultural affairs; and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Amman.

Meets With Christopher, Rabin, Peres

JN2910194295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at Raghadan Palace this evening. Christopher is leading the U.S. delegation to the Middle East and North Africa [MENA] Economic Summit. Discussions dealt with the latest developments in the peace process.

His Majesty King Husayn and Christopher emphasized that Jordan and the United States support the peace process. They stressed the need to overcome the difficulties on some tracks so a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace can be achieved in the region. The two sides also discussed the Amman economic summit. Christopher asserted his country's support for this conference and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

its eagerness that it achieve its objectives. This would contribute to the development of the region and reflect positively on the life of its peoples.

His Majesty King Husayn also received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two sides discussed the regional economic and tourist projects on the agenda of the MENA economic summit. They also stressed the need to render the summit a success and enable the countries of the region to take advantage of the opportunities for economic and social development in this region.

[Begin recording] [Rabin, in English] Well, first, Israel is interested to establish the diplomatic peace in economic growth. We would like to see that the peace treaty between his majesty the king of Jordan and Israel and the other partners of peace not only in the diplomatic peace, but to see that the person in Amman and Irbid will realize that peace brought improvement in his daily life. This is their hope, that is, of this conference. Not only vis-a-vis Jordan, but still the meeting, the conference, is in Jordan. I believe we gained experience in the last year, and I believe there are many projects, that there are companies, private sectors, that are ready to invest and to bring about a real change in the situation of, on one hand, Israel, Jordan and others.

[Jordan TV correspondent Susan 'Afanah, in English] Your Majesty: Participation of the international private sector was beyond expectations. Are you hopeful that the summit will bring about concrete results?

[Husayn, in English] I am very, very hopeful and very optimistic and we hope that it will take us a great step forward in this entire region towards fulfilling our duties toward generations to come and giving them the better life they deserve. [end recording]

Receives Japan, Russia, U.S. Officials

JN3010073895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0500 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king received last night the Japanese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yasuo Fukuda, who praised Jordan's efforts aimed at achieving peace in the region. Mr. Fukuda said his government is very interested in promoting its ties with Jordan.

The king also received Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Talks focused on latest developments related to the peace process. Also yesterday evening, the king received Canada's Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet, who commended his majesty's efforts to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The king also received the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, who voiced satisfaction with the arrangements taken by Jordan in the course of its preparation for the summit. He also welcomed Jordan's legal steps aimed at encouraging investment opportunities in the region. Mr. Brown said the United States would like to develop economies of the region and encourage cooperation between Middle Eastern countries and the United States.

Earlier, his majesty the king received the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is leading his country's delegation to the Amman economic summit. During the audience at Raghadan Palace, talks dealt with the Middle East peace process and its latest developments. His majesty and Mr. Christopher reaffirmed Jordan and the U.S. positions in supporting the peace march. They underlined the need to bypass obstacles facing some tracks in order to achieve just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. The discussions also touched on the economic summit, where Mr. Christopher reiterated the U.S. support for the conference. He pointed out that Washington was very concerned that the summit achieve its goals and contribute to developing the entire region.

Delegates Hold Meetings on Conference Sidelines

Peres, Musa Discuss Bilateral Issues

TA3010074895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has met with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, in Amman. They discussed bilateral questions and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The Egyptian foreign minister denied that there were differences with Jordan over the next site for the economic conference. Musa requested Israel's support to host the conference, and Peres said he would look into the matter.

The foreign minister stressed that Israel has no intention of trying to dominate the Middle East economically. He requested that no one try to make political capital over the issue, adding that Israel can aid its neighbors in this area.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 30 October adds: "In his meeting with Musa last night, Peres demanded from Musa clarifications about his speech, in which he called for the establishment of an Arab common market with the European countries and without Israel's participation. Musa hastened to explain that it all stemmed from an erroneous translation of his speech from Arabic into English."]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Egypt and the Gulf emirate of Qatar are both vying for the follow-up session to the Amman Economic Conference. A steering committee has recommended that the next session be held in Cairo at Egypt's request. However, Qatar is opposed and demands it convene on its territory.

Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin says Israel will agree to go to any country which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel. In Amman, Jordan's King Husayn opposed reconvening the conference in Cairo.

'Arafat Meets Christopher, Qatari Minister

JN2910200995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the Amman economic summit, President Yasir 'Arafat has met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Qatari foreign minister. After the meeting, the World Peace Investment Company was announced. Its capital totals $250 million.

President 'Arafat appreciated Qatar's position which supports both the Palestinian position and the peace process.

'Arafat Receives Swiss, PRC Ministers

JN3010100995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received at his place of residence in Amman yesterday evening (Franz Blancard), Swiss minister of state for economic affairs, head of the Swiss delegation to the Amman economic summit. The discussion focused on ways to enhance relations between Palestine and Switzerland and making the peace process move ahead.

President 'Arafat received (Vian Tenri Pe), PRC first deputy foreign minister, with whom he discussed Palestinian-PRC relations and ways to consolidate them.

The PRC official said that his country will continue to offer aid to the Palestinian people by increasing easy, interest-free loans.

Major Figures Address Amman Economic Conference

King Husayn Opens Session

JN2910115895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0933 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan to the opening session of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your highnesses, your excellencies, honorable guests, peace and blessings of God be upon you. I am happy to welcome you all, in the name of the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to express our pride in hosting this conference, which comes as a continuation of the work which we started in the last economic summit in Casablanca last year. The objectives which we hope for are revitalization of the process of development in this region, and improvement of the standard of living for its peoples, who have suffered the consequences of continuous conflict and tension throughout the past century.

Honorable guests: This region witnessed many forms of conflict and international rivalry during the cold war. When this war was over, and the opportunity was ripe to bring peace to the Middle East, we went to Madrid to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, as embodied in Resolutions 242 and 338. Our efforts were crowned with success when we signed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which we hope will be the launching pad for comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the whole region. But the peace we seek must be accompanied by sincere and persistent efforts in social and economic development, so that the peoples of the region may overcome the negative effects of decades of conflict and so that they may realize the importance of peace through tangible and positive change in their standards of living.

Honorable guests: We are fully aware that regional cooperation between regional countries should be based on equality and justice, so that the region may enjoy greater harmony, and fewer disparities in the levels of development among its countries. This harmony would only reinforce social stability and our ability to eliminate the root causes of future insecurity.

We are also fully aware that regional cooperation among the peoples of the Middle East must be in the framework of active and positive interaction with the world economy. If the countries of the region have taken advanced steps toward a partnership between Europe

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and the Middle East, this is due to the historic and cultural ties between our region and Europe. It does not suggest in any way that this partnership should be at the expense of our participation in, and interaction with the world economy.

It is worth mentioning at this point that the countries of the region have already initiated their cooperation, which is based on clear foundations, in three areas: the environment, water, and the infrastructure. Concerning the environment, everybody realizes that national policies for the protection of the environment are ineffective in the absence of regional coordination. The countries of the region are so closely intertwined geographically and demographically that it is impossible for any party to live in isolation of its surroundings. Concerning water, cooperation in this field is a vital necessity dictated by the nature of our region, which suffers a shortage of this basic life-supporting resource. This situation demands creative thinking to preserve and develop our sources of water. As for cooperation in the infrastructure field, all efforts must be concentrated on developing a continuous infrastructure network to achieve coordination among countries of the region, and to foster cooperation among them, in order to create a climate that attracts investment in all fields.

Honorable guests: The international community is able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the economies of the region at minimum cost. To achieve this result, there should be a clear and common outlook for the future which we seek for the region, in partnership and through cooperation with the international community. Each one of us will have a distinct role to play in making our subregion an active participant in the regional and world economies.

We in Jordan have worked diligently to liberalize the economy and to create a healthy environment that attracts local and foreign investments. We have boosted this by releasing the powers of human activity, and assuring full freedom of expression and participation in the decisionmaking process. Our starting point in these reforms was our conviction that the total stability of the national economy is the fundamental condition for achieving balanced, sustainable growth. We have achieved this stability by virtue of fiscal and monetary policies which aimed at controlling the government expenditure, limiting the budget deficit, stabilizing the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar, and preventing inflation from obstructing our economic progress. We have also implemented a policy package which aims at promoting savings, encouraging investment, and activating the private sector, so it can contribute to the process of development, the creation of new opportunities for employment, and raising the level of economic growth. In addition, we have worked assiduously to develop our human resources, which have been central to improving the standard of living in our country. They have contributed also to the development of other countries in the region, through the distinctive expertise and qualifications which they made available to these countries. We have sought to rectify the relationship between the public and private sectors in Jordan, to make it one of partnership and coordination between their basic roles in development. In this relationship the public sector lays down the foundations of an investment-attractive environment, and the organizational framework that permits the private sector to invest in projects that include the infrastructure. Comprehensive reforms should not be limited to strong leadership. Reforms should include those at the forefront in the fields of technology, administration, the economy, and the law.

In the past few months, the Jordanian Parliament ratified a number of new economic laws that aim to make the investment climate in Jordan stable and full of promise and opportunities. You will be able to familiarize yourselves closely with these opportunities in the course of this conference.

Honorable guests: We are fully aware that consolidating peace and stability is linked to the achievement of a comprehensive economic and social development. We are also aware that peace and prosperity can only prevail in an atmosphere of justice, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and supremacy of the law. Based on this firm conviction, we shall continue our diligent efforts to ingrain these concepts in our society, until Jordan becomes an example of commitment to these noble objectives.

Honorable Guests: In cooperation with our colleagues in the Steering Committee of the Amman Summit, which held the last of its meetings yesterday evening, we have worked to prepare the Declaration of Amman, which we hope will be ratified by this conference. We hope that it will be an advanced step toward the rehabilitation of the regional economies, in a spirit of cooperation, confidence, and hope.

Once again I welcome you all to Amman, and I thank all those who have contributed to the preparations for this economic conference, particularly the World Economic Forum, and the Steering Committee of the conference.

May god help us to achieve that which brings benefit to our peoples, and may God bless you all.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia's Kozyrev Gives Speech

JN2910190195 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1025 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Speech by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in English at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Royal Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, Your Majesties, Royal Highness, and Ladies and Gentlemen: You've just heard a joint address by Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton to this conference, kindly delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. I think that the fact that joint address is a significant sign of new times by itself. And on behalf of President Yeltsin and the Russian Government, I assure you that Russia will continue to make all possible efforts to deliver comprehensive peace to the region and to promote economic cooperation, which is extremely important.

Just before leaving for Amman, I had the pleasure to read a book by King Husayn entitled "My Profession, the King," which was published recently in Moscow. In this book, I read that address by His Royal Majesty to the Russian audience, which I would like to quote in a reversed translation into English: "We seek to build a bright future when peoples of our region would enjoy stability and peace while living in security. They would have an opportunity to work peacefully, to resume development, and to ensure a decent, peaceful, and free life for future generations."

I believe this idea can raise in the best possible way both the philosophy of the Middle East settlement, and especially the concept of this summit. A year ago, Jordan and Israel established peaceful good-neighbor relations with each other, which was a major outcome of the Madrid process, providing a basis for a start of an economic marathon in Casablanca. This pace of peace and cooperation in the region is expanding. In this connection, I would like once more to commend the recent signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which has strengthened the prospects for a final-stages negotiations.

The Middle East transformation into the region of stability and partnership cannot be completed, of course, without progress in Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanon relations. This requires dialogue, good will of the sides, and the support of international community. Today, we get down to establishing economic structures for the peaceful reorganization of the entire region. It will definitely cut the ground from under the feet of extremists, terrorists, and intolerance in this region. We believe that in the nearest future all types of trade boycott and various kinds of economic and humanitarian barriers will be eliminated.

In our view, the bank for development of the Middle East and North Africa and the institutions and mechanisms of cooperation which will be established at this conference, could assume important functions, and the sooner the better. The task of this conference is to create strong incentives and to encourage methods aimed at the attraction of investments to the Middle East and North Africa. The process of reorganization in the region barely needs particular results in the modernization of the industrial and agricultural infrastructure, and the implementation of the promising projects.

Russia, which has close historic ties and economic relations with all the countries of the region, now will continue to contribute to economic development of this region, basing on economic stabilization and growth of capital in Russia itself. We will fully support the activities initiated in Casablanca and continuing in Amman, which are aimed at insuring unimpeded economic traffic at the Middle East cross-roads of peace and cooperation. We are convinced that both Russian business and our state associations, which have gained a rich experience in this area, will contribute to these initiatives.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the organizers of the conference for the excellent arrangements and hospitality. But before ending this little address, I would like mention that this conference sets an important precedent for probably other regions. I see here in this hall Prime Minister of Bosnia Haris Silajdzic, and I hope that soon [applause] and I hope , and I see that this hope is widely shared in this hall, that soon we will have peace in Bosnia and in former Yugoslavia, and that soon we will gather for a conference to summon support for restructuring of this war-torn and too-long-suffering area and peoples. Thank you very much. [applause]

'Arafat Delivers Speech

JN2910133495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1031 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Your Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen: Your Majesty, I would like to begin my speech by conveying my heartfelt congratulations to your majesty on your birthday [applause],

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

wishing you a long life in the service of our Arab and Islamic nation. I join your majesty in sending the warmest greetings and best wishes to our cousin His Majesty King Hassan II [applause], wishing him good health.

It pleases me on the occasion of the convocation of this important conference in Amman today, which we both last attended in Casablanca, to extend to your majesty, to your wise government, and to your fraternal people—the twin and brotherly people—in the name of our twin Palestinian people and the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] our best greetings and our lavish gratitude and appreciation for the good and constructive efforts which effectively contributed to the successful convocation of this conference—the economic summit conference—and for the genuine Arab hospitality accorded to us. A new chapter is now being opened in the region to serve as an element of stability, progress, and cooperation among the peoples and states of the region so that all manifestations of oppression and occupation can be eliminated for good, and so that all parties will participate on an equal footing and responsibility in shouldering the burdens, benefits, and returns of peace.

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen, our region has over the past decade experienced a host of political changes which paved the way for the Madrid peace conference upon the initiative of President Bush and on the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions, foremost of which are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle in order to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region on all Arab tracks, including the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, especially after reaching the Jordanian- Israeli peace treaty and the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the PLO. The implementation of the peace process, which resulted in the recent transitional agreement, has manifold dimensions. We hope there will be an accurate and honest implementation of them as a prelude to the elections which are to be held before the start of the blessed month of Ramadan. Amid the current difficult phase of pursuing the implementation of the latest agreement, we received with grave concern the U.S. Congress decision—yes, we received with grave concern the U.S. Congress decision—to transfer the U.S. Embassy to holy Jerusalem. This decision poses a serious precedent, threatens to blow up the peace process, and exposes regional security and stability to danger, especially since this decision is a blatant violation of the international legitimacy resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and General Assembly on the holy city of Jerusalem. [applause] While we value the brave stand taken by President Clinton and his administration against the implementation of this decision—a stand enjoying our appreciation and gratitude—we believe that the U.S. Congress decision conflicts with all stands taken by the former U.S. Administrations and the letters of assurance issued by them, the latest of which was the letter of assurances presented by former U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Baker in this regard. It also conflicts with the Declaration of Principles signed at the White House and which stipulates that the issue of holy Jerusalem should be discussed with the final status issues and that all should refrain from making any political, demographic, or constructional changes in the holy city.

We also hoped that U.S. Congress would have viewed holy Jerusalem—our capital—as a unified city for peace and love, a city belonging to the three heavenly religions. This is proceeding from the city's historic and religious importance for us as Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians. The world views the Middle East with the hope and expectation that a just, comprehensive peace will be achieved and a final end put to the acts of terrorism and assassinations by any party. The world also hopes that hatred between all peoples of the region will be removed so as to ensure security and stability and achieve prosperity and a decent life in a manner that will meet the region's people's basic needs and maintain their dignity.

Your majesty the king, ladies and gentlemen: We firmly emphasize the importance of economic cooperation, which is one of the fruits of the peace process for all concerned economies. Please permit me to state briefly the most important requirements which we view as basic foundations for economic activity:

1. The level of services extended to the infrastructures must have an acceptable level of proximity and equality. This requires a program that takes into consideration the Palestinian people's special needs to remedy the economic ailments and destruction suffered by the Palestinian infrastructure as a result of the occupation. That is possible to achieve through arrangements to establish a special fund for meeting the requirements for rebuilding the Palestinian infrastructure. This fund should work side by side with the Regional Development Bank.

2. Freedom of movement by individuals, commodities, and services must be guaranteed [applause]. This is an essential condition for any economic achievement. Ladies and gentlemen, it is regrettable that over the past 14 months, we suffered more than 220 days of closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. On those days, the movement of individuals and Palestinian and Arab commodities was banned. No one was allowed to cross the border, and exportation and importation were banned. Workers were banned from heading to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their jobs, something which made our unemployment rate jump to over 58 percent. The material losses of this closure have considerably exceeded all aid extended to the PNA since it assumed responsibilities on Palestinian territory. Daily losses have amounted to over $6 million, not to mention the moral and psychological suffering caused by this closure.

3. Economic cooperation should be based on common and mutual benefit, equality, and reciprocity. This requires a fair distribution of the regional development projects among concerned states and not to concentrate on a certain area or a certain state. Involving private economic institutions and local services in the process of preparing and implementing regional projects will help ensure participation and fair distribution.

4. Regional economic cooperation should mainly focus on meeting the needs of citizens and consumers within the development plans of the various economies of the region so that economic growth is ensured in the concerned economies. We have the right to insist on the need to be able to build our economy in order to take part in regional economic cooperation.

Your majesty the king, ladies and gentlemen: We have started to rehabilitate the Palestinian economy, which has suffered the woes of dependence and impairment as a result of the occupation and the destruction of its infrastructure over the past years. The rehabilitation process has started since the PNA assumed political and economic responsibility in the Palestinian territory. Despite the hard circumstances, we are working to encourage qualified Palestinian cadres to operate the national institutions, activate the corporate entities, and enact the laws that protect and encourage domestic and foreign investment. In this context, the Higher Investment Commission was set up in accordance with the Investment Law ratified by the PNA.

The Palestinian concept of development is being translated into economic policies aimed at privatizing the infrastructure in sectors like communications, electricity, and others, in addition to the efforts being exerted by the Palestinian Authority to develop the infrastructure, beginning with hospitals, schools, institutes, roads, water, sewage, and others in order to provide the private sector with an appropriate atmosphere to play its role in moving the wheels of development. This synchronization between public and private sectors is of special importance in the case of the Palestinians within the framework of democracy and pluralism, considering this synchronization a sure guarantee for the success of our experience in development and reconstruction. Within this context, allow me to thank the donor states for all the aid they extended and are extending to us, which helped and continue to help us face all these problems and difficult challenges.

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen, peace is not only a Palestinian need; it is an Israeli, Arab, regional, and international need. Likewise, Palestine is not the only party that benefits from economic cooperation. Palestine is also a basic participant in this cooperation and once the appropriate conditions are made available, it can become an influential and effective partner in the building of a new Middle East that contributes to world stability, security, and prosperity.

Your Majesty, ladies and gentlemen, today we have to draw up new bases for the mechanisms of a joint regional economic cooperation founded on peace, cooperation, and equality because our peoples aspire for a better future, a more secure tomorrow, and a more prosperous life for our coming generations—our children and their children, our children and their children. We beseech God to grant us success. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Rabin Addresses Conference

TA2910120295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1052 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the opening session of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman — live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesty, the king of Jordan; Your Royal Highness, the crown prince of Jordan; the representatives of the sponsors of the peace process — the Secretary of State of the United States, the foreign minister of Russia; Prime Ministers; Ministers; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen: I arrived here about three hours ago from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and will return home in a few hours. A mere 20 minutes flight separate Amman from Jerusalem and 48 years, out of which only one year we lived in peace. Historians will ask one day if and why it was necessary to wait so many years in order to travel those 20 minutes.

We are here today in Amman to try to make up for the lost time and the lingering pain and to work together to beat the clock ticking away on our common problems. So far, we have invested much in blood, much time, and much money in a product which may have been essential for our national existences but of little benefit for our citizens. We invested in war. Today, and from here on, we are committed to invest in peace.

There are serious barriers ahead of us. We must overcome on both sides psychological barriers and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

generations of hostility, but in the drowsy Middle East, where everything moves at a slow pace, we will hurry to make up for the lost time. The world is not waiting for us; it is moving ahead. In today's economic reality, remaining in one place is a huge disadvantage. All of us here today are at the starting line. We have heard the starting gun, and we are off and running.

Ladies and gentlemen, peace in the Middle East demands that we think differently, talk differently, and act differently. From now on, all our efforts, actions, plans, all our words must concentrate on the economy and the quality of life. We owe this to the citizens of our countries, which we represent here: a new life to struggle against illiteracy and poverty, to overcome the problems of water — a problem common to the entire Middle East, to produce, to sell, to market, to profit. No one will come here because of our winning smiles. They all want to make money.

There were cynics who scoffed that after the final handshakes of the Casablanca Conference, the dust would once again settle on the Middle East. The hundreds of representatives of large corporations and the multinationals which have invested in this area in the last year and which are represented here today are the proof that the process which started in Casablanca was a success. Four main parties to the peace process — Jordan; Egypt; the Palestinians, represented by the PLO; and Israel — have demonstrated extraordinary maturity and cooperation toward erasing the scars of an entire century by creating two regional institutions in the last year: the Regional Business Council and the Regional Tourism Council. I believe that the foundations have been laid, that in the Amman conference we will declare about the regional bank and many other institutions that will serve the economic growth purpose. From the podium at Casablanca, we called for their establishment, and a mere one year later, governments of the region and the business community can point to their establishment as a major vehicle to intensify mutual cooperation in this area.

To the representatives of the private industry, your presence here is both a proof of your faith in the hidden economic potential of this region and of your confidence that it is profitable to do business here. Last year's Casablanca Conference was very significant, but it was only a first step. The Amman economic conference — which I believe is the largest international conference ever to take place in the Middle East — the Amman conference itself and, more important, the ensuing contacts, agreements, and the focus of the international community on the region constitute a further giant leap for the people of the Middle East.

Israel brings to this summit its desire and commitment to play a constructive and cooperative role in this arena. Since Casablanca, Israel and its neighbors have already initiated dozens of development projects in such diverse fields as water transportation, agriculture, environment, energy, among others, thereby slowly but surely weaving a fabric of coexistence and cooperation, a fabric of resistance to pressure, skepticism, and outright sabotage which attempt to disrupt and derail the peace process.

Regional economic development, however, entails far more than a commitment and goodwill of the parties directly involved. The resources of the region are insufficient to meet the challenges before us. Regrettably, the region has been able to raise only 3 percent of the international funds earmarked for economic development. We must remember that in the last year alone, there are an additional 4 million mouths to feed in our region. We must provide housing for their families, jobs for their parents, schools and clinics for their brothers and sisters. This is a very heavy burden. Toward this end, we need the participation and the cooperation of numerous parties both within the region and beyond, from governments, local businesses, communities, and outside partners. The international public sector must play a cardinal role to financial involvement, while the private sector will enjoy unique business opportunities. Planning, engineering, construction, capital equipment, debt financing, equity financing, and professional services are all coming into demand.

With increased budgets, more attention, more leadership, and more enterprises capability challenged to the economic development, the region will flourish and the Middle East should and will become one of the most viable and prosperous regions in the world, achieving once again its former prominence and status.

With your permission, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart in the name of the government and the people of Israel, Your Majesty, King Husayn 1 of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; your brother, Crown Prince Hasan; the prime minister of Jordan and its ministers for their warm hospitality in the spirit of our common forefather Abraham; and the residents and citizens of Jordan for their warm welcome.

Let us join, each of us, in our specific field of expertise, roll up our sleeves, and get down to work. Let us leave this conference in three days time with something concrete. Let's make the Amman economic conference go down in history as a major milestone of progress in the region and the entire world. Now is the time to fulfill the prophesy and the dream of billions throughout the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ages to turn swords into plowshares. Thank you very much.

King Husayn on Palestinian Issue

JN2910160295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1146 GMT 29 Oct

[Remarks by Jordan's King Husayn Amman at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Honorable guests: Would you allow me, in this fraternal climate, to make a brief comment on what we heard from our dear Arab brothers, our partners and comrades in the one march.

I would like to reiterate that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan stands on the side of the Palestinian Arab people with all its potential and capability [applause] to restore their legitimate rights on their land and in their homeland, as well as to establish their independent state with God's help soon, if that is their will. [applause]

In addition to this, we view Jerusalem as the abode of the hearts of the believers in one God. We hope it will become a symbol of the Palestinian-Israeli peace, and a symbol of the peace between the sons of Abraham. We hope it will be for all of them in terms of its holy places which are dear to all of us.

The frank fraternal talk of some could be interpreted as if there were a division in our Arab world. I would like to say that Jordan was the first to rush [awwal al-muharwilin]—a term which has been used more than once—when it followed sisterly Egypt 28 years ago and gave it the command of its Army, its Armed Forces, and fate in the battle which was waged at that time. It was also the first to rush to every Arab meeting on cooperation, and coordination in this big homeland. It was also among the first to be hurt and to suffer, and among the first who sacrificed their blood and paid the tax of duty in all cases and under all circumstances. [applause]

With regard to Egypt, it is the big sister, which is dear to all of us. No one can deny its sacrifices, the pure blood it shed in defense of its nation, and its continuous giving. It remains our big sister. If moving toward peace is rushing, it preceded us 17 years ago. [applause] If we have in mind a sincere, serious attempt to compensate for wasted time on the Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese level — we will not only rush, but run to compensate for the time to give our people a free and honorable life, and to give them all opportunities to achieve and to achieve self-confidence in themselves, in their existence, and in their future. We are proud of our Arab Egyptian-Jordanian- Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese brotherhood. We will work on the path of peace in accordance with what we committed ourselves to—the peace which restored our country's land, water, and full rights, the peace which we seek for our relations and brothers, the Palestinians, on their national soil—and the peace, which, when achieved, we, the twins, as my brother said, will be able together to view the nature of the relationship, which will be decided by the free people amongst themselves.

We hope that sisterly Egypt will always continue leading this nation on the paths of peace, wellbeing, and success, wishing our nation wellbeing and success.

Regarding the next meeting, I hope the conference will succeed in choosing the venue. We heard his excellency the honorable brother today calling for holding the meeting in Cairo. God willing, it will be there. It will not be a strange thing to convene the meeting in Cairo for the well-being of the nation.

Also, to be faithful, there is an invitation from a sisterly country in the Gulf. It might be appropriate to discuss the possibility of holding the summit in the Arabian Gulf after it convened in Africa and in this part of the Mediterranean. This is, of course, up to you. We hope that all the results will be good.

Peres Speaks at Opening Session

JN2910172495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1154 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the opening session of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit at the Cultural Palace in Amman — live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thank you very much, your majesty. Thank you very much your royal highness. Thank you very much, your majesty, for fathering a fatherly spirit in the Middle East and offering a wise and civilized vision for it.

Ladies and Gentlemen: We've left at home for a while our memories; our complaints; our pains; our bitterness the land of our fathers, with all the agonies, to enter the district of our children expect us to change the fate and the future of the Middle East, to leave the horizonless provinces of the past and enter the borderless age of modern economic dealings.

We have to do two things at the same time: A political peace, and an economic peace. Whenever we can move politically, let's move politically; whenever we can move economically, let's move economically. The political peace is an end to the past, the economic peace

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is the beginning of the future that our people will feel in a tangible way what can be attained.

I would like to give just one example. This year the Middle East gained $78 billion out of tourism, according to the Council of World Travel and Tourism. They say that in 10 years, we can increase it to $332 billion, four times as much, change the standard of living in the Middle East. For that, we don't need governmental money, we need governmental tranquility and stability. The money can come from private enterprises and offer really a new vision for the Middle East. What is the new vision? I would say it in two or three sentences: To have full employment; to have full literacy; to enable the people to gain the standard of living of the Western hemisphere and demonstrate that no matter to whom we belong, we are responsible for a new age. It is in many ways, what we are doing today in Amman: A farewell to the outgoing century and an eye-to-eye look for a new one. I hope a century of peace, of understanding, of cooperation.

Your Majesty: Amman may be a turning point. Thank you.

Egypt's Musa Gives Speech

NC2910145495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 29 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that no Egyptian or Arab citizen can imagine a final solution or comprehensive peace in the Middle East without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and complete withdrawal from the Syrian and Lebanese territories. He said that peace must include measures that guarantee security for all parties, foremost of these is the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East within the framework of the international order to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Speaking before the Amman Economic Conference today, he added that we aim to establish constructive and healthy relations between the Arabs and Israel based on fairness, equality, and balance. The following is Foreign Minister Musa's speech before the Conference that opened in Amman today:

It honors me to speak on behalf of Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to convey to Your Majesty, the fraternal Jordanian people, and the participants in this conference, his and the Egyptian people's wishes that the results of the conference will contribute considerably to our common efforts to fulfill our people's hopes for a comprehensive and fair peace so that we may proceed firmly and confidently on the path of cooperation, progress, and prosperity.

Recall that through its historic initiative that launched the peace process in the Middle East and its insistence that fair peace should prevail in the region, Egypt was in line with the movement of history that presented to all our peoples a unique opportunity for peace. Peace constitutes a strong foundation for achieving cooperation and development.

Since the Casablanca meeting last year, the Middle East has witnessed important developments on the road to peace in the region, as manifest in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the second phase in a process that provides for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank cities, holding Palestinian elections for the national legislative council, and the start of the final negotiations in May. These developments emphasized the usefulness of the peace process and enhanced its credibility. I would like to express here caution as both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are still crippled. Needless to say a comprehensive peace will only be completed with them and with agreements signed between them. This makes our work a mere prelude for the launching of regional cooperation in the larger sense of the word and the establishment of peace in the comprehensive sense of the word.

Ladies and gentlemen: We are still optimistic that yesterday's opponents will be tomorrow's partners in making peace and envisioning the future. Making peace requires strong will and relentless determination before the challenges and ambitions and in line with aspirations and hopes. The gist here is that the principle of land for peace remains the main rule on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks. We can then envision the future. No Egyptian or Arab can imagine a final solution for a comprehensive peace without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and complete withdrawal from the Syrian and Lebanese territories, as well as agreements and measures that guarantee security for all parties. Foremost of these is the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction within the framework of an international order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Our optimism stems from our confidence in ourselves, in our march, and in our ability to meet the challenges. We aim to build constructive and healthy relations between the Arabs and Israel based on fairness, equality, and balance so that we may together achieve the positive aspects we hope for and avoid the negative ones.

Your Majesty: We in this region are part of a vaster world and we are not a separate world. Developments are occurring on the international arena as they are in the Middle East. These developments interact and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

lead to cooperation in line with agreed upon rules to achieve the interests of all parties. We must interact with these developments, particularly those relating to economy and development. Our interaction must be undertaken with reason, confidence, and wisdom, not showing off or rushing. We must raise the standard of living throughout the region. We must achieve an economic leap to ensure a decent living standard for our peoples after they decided to put wars behind and try to live in peace. Hence this conference, the previous one, and the upcoming one, these even are the basis of the peace process itself.

The economic indicators in the regional countries demonstrate that the absence of peace is one of the main reasons for modest economic growth, which is manifest by poor commercial contribution on the international level. However, the indicators, at the same time, note the available opportunities under peace. The region with its enormous potential, huge manpower, financial, and material resources can, through interaction and cooperation within the framework of peace, offer a new example for development to compensate the peoples of the region for the years of destruction and wasting resources on wars and arms. This can ensure moving the region to an era of growth and allow it to enter international competition on firm footing. It is true that the more we proceed toward prosperity, the stronger peace grows.

Increased trade among the countries of the region is the most important factor in regional cooperation. This prompts us to mention an issue that we consider most important— the Palestinian economy's ability to enter direct trade relations with the outside world with the necessary measure of freedom and without unjustified restrictions. It is well known that the flow of trade from and into the Palestinian self-rule areas is facing numerous obstacles. This is a substantial issue for the Palestinian economy because these obstacles stifle it and render it unable to be an effective partner in the equation of regional cooperation. This situation creates many negative factors.

If we consider Egypt, the strongest power in the region, its economy is proceeding firmly toward freedom. Egypt has all the necessary resources—fertile land, natural agricultural, mineral, and tourist resources, vast skilled manpower, a growing private sector, as well as an industrial base. This base qualifies it to be an effective economic partner on the regional and international level and to propose regional development within the framework of constructive partnerships to create a distinguished economic situation for all parties.

Egypt realizes that keeping pace with the requirements for regional development and merging in the world economy to safeguard our interests dictates that there be cooperation among the region's countries and openness on the world with a new thinking which is compatible with the age and which employs national and regional resources for the benefit of all parties. The best proof of our firm faith in regional capabilities has been the establishment of data bases and the realization of cooperation in the industrial, agricultural, and petroleum fields between Egypt and its neighbors since the 1980s. There is a great potential for enhancing and developing regional cooperation in these spheres. In addition, there are prospects for cooperation in new and replaceable sources of energy, such as generating electricity from solar power.

To achieve this, Egypt has seriously participated in the talks on a new regional mechanism. These talks have resulted in the decision to establish a Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, which we are pleased to host in Egypt, as we all a Regional Businessmen Council and a Middle East Tourism and Travel Organization. We are looking forward to establishing regional research centers and data bases to promote trade and technology.

Undoubtedly, the establishment of this mechanism is an important achievement for regional parties. This mechanism forms an integrated triangle for finance, trade, and tourism and establishes an important basis for regional cooperation in the Middle East, which will become richer with continuous development in the peace process on all its tracks.

From the same standpoint and out of a conviction that the desired cooperation among the Middle East countries is a new and additional boost to our moves on various levels, Egypt continues its activity in several directions. It calls for enhancing economic cooperation with the Arab countries and for establishing a new strategic relationship and association with the EU. We view with interest and seriousness the Barcelona Conference that will draw up the basis of the future relations between the EU and its partners in the Mediterranean Basin. We are also forming economic associations with the United States to benefit from its economic, trade, scientific, and technological capabilities.

It is important for me to mention that the Egyptian government is doing its best to provide the appropriate climate to achieve economic progress on the national and regional levels. The Egyptian private sector will play a key role in formulating and promoting this progress.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ladies and gentlemen: Egypt hopes that until our next meeting is held the coming period will witness crucial progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and a continuation of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track until comprehensive peace is achieved in the whole region. I hope that our next meeting, which Egypt is pleased to host in Cairo, will be an opportunity for crowning a new phase of peace efforts that will open a new chapter of cooperation and stability throughout the Middle East.

Damascus Radio: King Husayn 'Annoyed' by Musa

JN2910183595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Oct

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—The economic summit began in Amman today amid tight security measures.

Reports said thousands of police and security men and special forces of the Jordanian Army were put on alert. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said in a speech that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks continue to be stalemated, and needless to say that comprehensive peace will not be complete without these tracks.

He added that the land-for-peace principle is the main rule on the Palestinian, Syrian, or Lebanese tracks. Hence, we can envision the future. No Egyptian, Arab, or anyone concerned with peace and the Middle East future can imagine a final solution or a comprehensive peace without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and complete withdrawal from Syrian and Lebanese territory, as well as agreements and measures that guarantee security for all parties. Foremost of these is the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Musa said: We want constructive and healthy relations between the Arabs and Israel that are based on equality and equitability in all aspects of these relations that realize the interests of all parties, in order to realize all the positive aspects we hope to attain and avoid altogether the negative ones that we fear.

He stressed that the Middle East is influenced by the international changes, and interaction to them. He said: Our interaction must be undertaken with reason, confidence, and wisdom, not by showing off or rushing. He said as much as the region moves toward peace, it moves toward welfare and economic cooperation.

Musa's speech, in which he criticized the rushing into normalization with Israel before realizing just and comprehensive peace, annoyed King Husayn of Jordan, who interrupted the inaugural session and requested to comment on the Egyptian minister's speech.

King Husayn said: To comment on what we heard, we want Jerusalem to be the symbol of Palestinian-Israeli peace. He did not define his concept on this, did not refer to the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and made no reference to the Arab identity of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Musa Views King Husyan's Speech, Clarifies Remarks

NC2910192895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 29 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt's stand is firm and was clearly put forward before the Amman economic summit.

In an exclusive statement to MENA commenting on King Husayn's speech, Musa pointed out that "the king talked about rushing [harwalah] from his own viewpoint. He may have seen in my speech before the summit a reference to some stances, bu the fact is that I did not mention anything about the King or Jordan in my speech." Musa added: "My speech involved a general view of the situation and I explained how peace, economic cooperation, and security could move in parallel, for they are very important to the future of the region. The future will not be clear except after the peace process has been completed in the manner we have stated." Musa added: "By this I mean the [Israeli] withdrawal from Syria and Lebanon and the implementation of the principle of land for peace."

Musa added: "What we want is for the proposed peace to realize the interests of everybody equally and fairly. We want everybody to agree on the need to realize what we aspire to and on the next step we should take. I would like to emphasize that the Egyptian position was stated clearly, and it is Egypt's firm position, nothing more or nothing less."

Mubarak Said To Ask Egypt To Withdraw From Summit

JN3010081995 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Amman economic summit witnessed a Jordanian-Egyptian clash which electrified the atmosphere and revealed differences between Amman and Cairo — differences which diplomats were trying to ignore. It was rumored in the conference lobbies that President Husni Mubarak was upset by His Majesty King Husayn's remarks and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

asked the Egyptian delegation to withdraw from the Amman summit.

AL-BILAD has learned that the official Egyptian delegation boycotted the summit's evening sessions and remained at the Forte Grand Hotel in protest. AL-BILAD has also learned that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the hotel and asked him to calm the situation down so that the summit would end peacefully.

Press sources cited an official in the Egyptian delegation as saying: If we continue our participation in the summit, we will obstruct the major projects. Egyptian delegation sources said the Egyptian presidency instructed the delegation to withdraw from the summit if Jordan does not apologize for having offended them. The Egyptian delegation was also cited as saying that 'Amr Musa did not mean Jordan when he spoke about the rush [harwalah] in the peace process, but was speaking in general terms.

Summit Activities Reported for 30 Oct

JN3010120495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second day of the Amman economic summit has started with a plenary session on the economic climate. The session was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and moderated by Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah. The six speakers addressing the meeting focused on the commitment to reforms and structural economic adjustments as well as increasing the productivity of capital and return on investment. They tackled government's role in ensuring a proper regulatory and legal environment and effective macro-economic policies. Also high on the agenda were increasing investor confidence, the central role of foreign trade and investment, and the social burden of adjustment and ways to alleviate the impact of low-income groups.

Earlier in the morning, experts and media representatives met over a working breakfast at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. They were addressed by the American Middle East peace coordinator, the director of the Palestinian National Authority's Economic Policies Department, and other leading experts from the Arab world and the United States.

Now, participants at the Royal Cultural Center and the Regency Hotel are discussing a Jordan Rift Valley development plan, south and eastern Mediterranean development. Thematic discussions in parallel are also focusing on the role of regional capital markets in creating the new Middle East, privatization, human resources development, business environment, and trade financing. In the afternoon, projects will be presented by Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the Palestinians, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

On the sidelines of the economic summit, Jordan and France have signed an agreement on financial cooperation worth 100 million French francs. Planning Ministry Undersecretary Nabil 'Ammari said the agreement would bolster Jordan's balance of payment and emphasize the kingdom's capability to enter the international markets. Also today the Jordan Phosphate Mining Company and (Nosek Hydro) Company signed an understanding memo to set up a chemical complex in Jordan. The plant will be located in Shidiyah and al-'Aqabah in the southern parts of the country. Under the agreement, the two companies will carry out feasibility study of a joint project with the aim of making use of the highly-qualified raw phosphate available in large quantities in Jordan. (Nosek Hydro) will provide its advanced technological and marketing expertise for the venture.

Draft of Amman Economic Summit Declaration

JN3010085295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 p 7

[Draft of Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit declaration to be read at summit closing session in Amman on 31 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Oct. 29-31, 1995, the second Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit was held in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. The summit, co-sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation, with the support of EU, Canada, and Japan, brought together government and business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Summit participants also expressed their appreciation for the partnership of the World Economic Forum, which assisted so ably in organising this event.

The goals of the summit were to facilitate the expansion of private sector investment in the region, to cement a public-private partnership which will ensure that end, and to work to enhance regional cooperation and development. In this spirit, business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, and other regions were able to conclude a number of significant commercial and business transactions at the summit that will help augment the productive capacity of the region and contribute to its broad-based economic development. These ventures involved projects in the fields of tourism, telecommunications, and transportation. Reflecting this public-private partnership, a number of these ventures will benefit from government guarantees, technical

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

assistance, and other support from the international community.

Government representatives conducted a series of negotiations over the past year on institutional arrangements as called for in the Casablanca Declaration which would help underpin the peace process. In this respect, the following agreements have been reached:

— A Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa will be established in Cairo. The bank—as described in its draft articles—will be structured to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation. The Task Force will finalise its negotiations by Dec. 31, 1995 and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial intermediation facility. Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments. The economic summit will review this issue at its next meeting.

— The establishment of a Regional Tourism Board, the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association to facilitate tourism and promote the region as a unique and attractive tourist destination. The board will include both public and private representatives.

— The establishment of a Regional Business Council to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the countries of the region.

— The formal inauguration of the Economic Summit Executive Secretariat, which is located in Rabat and works to advance the public-private partnership, promoting contacts, sharing data, and fostering private sector investment in the region. The participants expressed their appreciation to the Moroccan government for its contribution to this effort, and confirmed their support for its ongoing activities.

As a complement to the regional institutions called for at Casablanca, the Steering Group of the Multilateral Peace Negotiations has decided to establish the REDWG Monitoring Committee Secretariat as a permanent regional economic institution to be based in Amman. All participating parties have agreed that this institution will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. The regional parties strongly recommend that the secretariat's activities will cover the range of sectors within the REDWG Monitoring Committee's work, i.e. infrastructure, tourism, trade, finance, and areas within the Copenhagen Plan of Action. The core parties in close consultation with the European Union and other members of the Monitoring Committee undertake to finalise the appropriate document on the structure and operational functions of this institution, which will be submitted to the next meeting of the REDWG plenary, with a view to the commencement of the institution's activities in the first half of 1996. This REDWG plenary will consider the matter, take appropriate action, and report to the upcoming meeting of the Multilateral Steering Group.

The participants at the summit expressed their strong support for continued progress in the peace process begun at Madrid exactly four years ago, and the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace. Participants took particular note of advances made in the past year. Summit participants welcomed the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and took favourable note of the significant progress made in implementing the Treaty of peace between Israel and Jordan. The summit welcomed the decision to organise in Paris, in December 1995, a Conference on Economic Assistance for the Palestinians. The summit also took note of the positive contribution made towards peace by multilateral working groups. While welcoming an increasingly positive atmosphere of openness in the region, the summit recognised that the circle of peace needs to be widened. Participants expressed the hope that peace agreements between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon would be concluded as soon as possible. The summit welcomed significant steps taken by regional parties to the Taba Declaration and by the GCC with regard to lifting the boycott on Israel, and expressed its support for additional efforts to end the boycott.

The participants at the summit declared their intent to implement as soon as possible the understandings reached in Amman. With respect to commercial activities, the business representatives reaffirmed their intention to follow through on the commercial ventures reached here and to explore new opportunities to expand trade and investment in the region. On the part of government, the officials attending the summit declared their intention to support the activities of the private sector, most particularly by getting the new institutions established in Amman up and running as soon as possible. The participants also welcomed the measures taken by regional parties to open their economies and join the global economy.

Taking note of the historic process begun at Casablanca and continued in Amman, which continues to complement and consolidate other positive developments in the region, the participants at the summit expressed their intention to meet again a year hence for a third an-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nual Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Cairo.

Amman Delegates Reach Accord on Development Bank

JN3010102295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference which opened here Sunday [29 October] will announce the establishment of a regional development bank as well as regional tourism and business boards, officials said.

It was also agreed that Jordan will host the secretariat of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG), one of the several working groups of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, but it remained unclear whether the secretariat will act also a policy-making and project identifying institution.

A draft declaration, to be adopted at the conclusion of the summit on Tuesday, said the proposed bank will be established in Cairo. According to diplomatic sources, the inclusion of Cairo as the base for the bank in the declaration, thrashed out in laborious negotiations that ended in the wee hours of Sunday, came upon the insistence of the United States.

According to the sources, several countries who sent representatives to the negotiations had adopted a position that they would endorse Cairo as the base for the bank only if Jordan had no objections.

The inclusion of the provision indicated that Jordan might have said it did not have any objection, but it was not immediately known what the Kingdom had secured in return.

Two senior U.S. administration officials later told reporters in a background briefing that there was "consensus" that the bank be based in Cairo but that no agreement had been reached where to base the regional tourism and business councils.

Jordan was known to have been more interested in hosting the policy making and project identification institution related to regional economic development rather than the proposed bank itself. According to Jordanian officials, Amman also liked to be the base for one of the two councils.

European diplomats said Jordan was apparently seeking to ensure that the policymaking institution as well as one of the two councils will be based in Amman in further discussions with the various parties involved. Such discussions could stretch until the end of the year when the articles of the regional development bank would be finished.

The U.S. officials, in their background briefing, said the REDWG secretariat, which will be an umbrella body for all sub-committees on regional economic cooperation, will be complementary to the development bank and the tourism and business councils as well as other related institutions.

The bank will have a capital of $5 billion, said the officials without elaboration. But diplomats said the figure was the authorised capital and the initial paidup capital was tentatively set up at $1.25 billion also appeared to be a high target.

Germany said the European Union was not, at this point, interested in investing in the bank. Saudi Arabia also said it was not interested. The positions of the other members of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation council (GCC) were not immediately known.

Muhammad al-Nuways, the deputy finance and trade minister of the United Arab Emirates, was quoted by AFP that Gulf states would "wait and see what happens" before deciding whether to contribute to the bank.

"We have so many organisations which have been providing credit under excellent terms for more than 20 years," Mr. al-Nuways said.

"It would be better to have cooperation between these organisations which know the region's priorities rather than create a new bank."

The U.S. officials said the door was open for those who did not want to join the bank in the initial stages to sign on later.

The draft final declaration says the bank "will be structured to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation."

An international task force entrusted with establishing the bank "will finalise its negotiations by Dec. 31, 1995, and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial mediation facility," says the document.

"Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordanian Paper Notes 'Disturbing' Factors at Summit

JN3010103795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Clarity of Objectives"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A copy of the draft declaration of the Amman economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) that circulated in town yesterday appears to endorse several financial and economic institutions to serve the ideals and objectives of regional economic cooperation constructed on the edifice of peace between Israel and the Arab World. MENA I, which was held in Casablanca last year, had articulated these purposes but left it up to MENA II to translate them into reality.

So far so good. What could be disturbing to note, though, is that not only inter-Arab rivalries are influencing the decision- making process of the task force of the summit; differences in perspectives among some of the major donor countries are also taking their toll on the future course of the past and future MENA summits. Somehow we get the distinct feeling that various quarters and spheres of influence are not operating exactly on the same wavelength on how best to attain the objectives that we all seem to agree on.

Accordingly, we seem to have decided to have a bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa to be based in Cairo. Its aims will be to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects and increase economic cooperation. We need not guess why Cairo was selected to host this bank or figure out who was behind it and who was not. But we would definitely like to know how policy-making and project identification in the context of regional economic development of the MENA region would be formulated. Will they remain in the realm of REDWIG [Regional Economic Development Working Group] or will they be the responsibility of another institution that we do not know yet about?

Then we are going to have a Regional Business council, again to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the participating countries of the two regions.

The proposed Regional Tourism Board aims to promote tourism on the level of two regions that are different and far apart. While we do not profess to be experts on tourism, plain common sense would readily reveal that tourism in North Africa is not quite connected with tourism in the Middle East. These two areas of the Arab region are not exactly complementary to one another when it comes to tapping the resources of the tourism industry. As a matter of fact lumping the two regions together for the purpose of economic development strikes us as controversial to say the least.

Out of all the basket of fruits that is being assembly by MENA II, Amman, its host, is getting just an apple or two. As a token of appreciation to Jordan for its commitment to regional and comprehensive peace, Amman has been chosen to host REDWIG, the Regional Economic Development Working Group. Again this additional body will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation, this time for the Middle East alone. At least there is considerable sense in trying to promote regional cooperation on the Middle Eastern scale rather than on the basis of two regions as the other institutions seem to be doing. As for the secretariat of the MENA summits, of course Rabat will be the host capital since Morocco was the first country to host the MENA series.

The many signals that emanate from present and past experiences gained from MENAs I and II give an added credence to the feeling that there has been considerable wheeling and dealing behind closed doors on the future course of regional economic development. Unless and until intentions of the parties are better coordinated, there is every reason to believe that where we are heading may not be exactly where we set out to go in the first place.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Parliamentary Union Condemns U.S. Vote

LD2710013895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union has strongly condemned the U.S. Congress' decision on moving the U.S. embassy to the occupied city of Jerusalem. It called on Arab governments to unite their stances and adopt the necessary measures to maintain the Arabism of Jerusalem.

A statement by the president of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mohamed Jalal Essaid [speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives], said that Arab parliamentarians, who had been provoked by the U.S. decision, stressed their strong condemnation of that bias decision, and urged all Arab governments to unite their stances and adopt the necessary measures to maintain the Arabism of Jerusalem and guarantee the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions applicable to it.

It urged the World Inter-Parliamentary Union to declare its condemnation of the irresponsible stance adopted by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the U.S. Congress, and confirm its commitment to the international resolutions concerning the holy city.

The union said that the U.S. Congress' decision constituted a blatant provocation to the feelings of millions of Muslims and Christians throughout the world, and completely discarded all resolutions of the United Nations and international legitimacy concerning the holy city. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi Murdered in Malta

Statement Issued on Assassination

NC2910070695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0640 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, the hands of treason and treachery hit the symbols of struggle and assassinated an Islamic leader, who pledged to God Almighty and the people to confront the Zionist trickery. The bullets of Zionist rancor have killed the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, in Malta. The Islamic leader had successfully contributed to ending the tragic conditions of the Palestinians on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

This is the fate of strugglers—martyrdom or victory.

The Islamic Jihad movement issued a statement announcing the death of martyr al-Shaqaqi. It vowed to avenge his death against the enemy, who is playing havoc against the people and land under the protection of the forces of hegemony and global arrogance.

To replace the martyr, the Islamic Jihad has elected Dr. Rashad Qasim as secretary general of the movement.

Movement Official Describes Assassination

NC2910192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Interview with Abu-Ahmad 'Isam, foreign relations official in the Islamic Jihad Movement, by 'Isam Hasan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] As an official in the movement, could you give the listeners a clear picture of the incident that involved martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta?

['Isam] Brother martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi was on an official two-week visit to Libya as part of a Palestinian delegation representing a coalition of Palestinian forces. They went to see the Libyan officials to discuss the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya. The task assigned to these brothers was to urge the Libyan authorities to halt the expulsion order and ease the human tragedy so that the Palestinian people could continue their struggle and jihad without any complications that may result in negative repercussions. On his way back, a few hours after his arrival in Malta, he was riding in a private car. As he got out of the car, two persons approached him and shot him directly in the head, and he was martyred. This took place on Thursday 26 October at approximately 1330 Malta time. Since the martyr was carrying a Libyan passport in the name of Ibrahim 'Ali al-Shawish, the Maltese media talked about the assassination of a Libyan with that name. After identifying the body, we ascertained that it was martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

[Hasan] Was there anyone else with him in the car?

['Isam] Everybody knows that Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi was a primary target of the Israeli intelligence services and was under constant watch and surveillance. This necessitated the presence of guards and stringent security measures. The movement of Dr. al-Shaqaqi was conducted in extreme secrecy. He used to move between places away from publicity using unknown documents and under guard. However, the circumstance in Malta, where it seems there is high Israeli infiltration; and the fact that this had not been expected because of the secrecy in movements and the use of travel documents that had nothing to do with him, the possibility of the Israeli intelligence service's reaching him was thought to be remote. However, God's will prevailed.

[Hasan] Do you believe that the Israeli Mosad alone carried out this operation or did it receive information or tips from the U.S. intelligence service as well?

['Isam] What we are certain of is that the decision to liquidate Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi is an Israeli decision and that the Israeli intelligence is the party that initiated, arranged, and prepared the operation. So far, we do not have any further information.

[Hasan] Thank you.

['Isam] God bless you.

Islamic Jihad: We Will Take Revenge

NC2910080395 Paris AFP in English 0734 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Palestinian hardline group Islamic Jihad vowed Sunday [29 October] to take revenge on Israelis for killing its leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, blaming Israeli secret services for his death.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In a statement to AFP in Jerusalem, the Jihad confirmed the death of their leader and said Mosad secret services agents gunned him down Thursday in Malta.

"We will take revenge wherever it is in the world," the statement said.

"We assure the Zionists and their leader (Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin that this repugnant crime has turned every Zionist wherever he is on the earth into a target for our fighters and our suicide bombers.

"We will burn the ground under the feet of the Zionist criminals," it added, recalling the anti-Israeli suicide attack it carried out in January near Tel Aviv where 21 Israelis, including 20 soldiers were killed.

"We promise the Islamic nation that we will continue the fight in the name of the blood of our martyrs.

"The leader of the Islamic Jihad, the martyr and hero, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, was killed by Zionist bullets on Thursday, October 26, in Malta as he was coming back from Libya where he took part in talks to solve the situation of the Palestinians suffering on the Libyan-Egyptian border," the Jihad said.

Military officials said the police and army were Sunday on full alert, and orders have been handed out to soldiers patrolling the West Bank and the passage points between Israel and the self-ruled Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad Leader on Avenge From Abroad

MS3010112895 London INDEPENDENT in English 30 Oct 95 p 12

[Report on interview with Shaykh Nafiz 'Azzam, Islamic Jihad leader, by Eric Silver; date not given: "Islamic Jihad Vows to 'Burn the Earth' Under Israelis' Feet"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza — Islamic Jihad's threats to avenge the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi were published in a leaflet distributed in Gaza yesterday, threatening to "make the earth burn" under every Israeli's feet. It denounced the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, as a terrorist and promised more suicide bombings.

Although the leaflet was printed in Gaza, it carried a Jerusalem dateline. Local Islamic Jihad leaders evidently did not want to provoke a preemptive strike from Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian police, who have been making it increasingly difficult for them to operate from autonomous Palestinian territory. In an interview with the Independent, its most senior politician here, Shaykh Nafiz 'Azzam, would only say that the leaders abroad would decide how to avenge al-Shaqaqi. "Here we cannot decide" the shaykh insisted. "Only the leaders outside Palestine can decide."

Pressed on what he would recommend, he replied: "We have a duty to defend ourselves against this kind of aggression. This crime shows that the Israelis are not serious when they talk about peace with the Palestinians."

Despite the assassination, Mr 'Arafat left on schedule yesterday at the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East economic summit in Amman, Jordan. The Israeli delegation is led by Mr Rabin.

None the less, Mr 'Arafat's Fatah organisation warned the Israeli Prime Minister that he was playing with fire by killing Palestinian opposition leaders, however violent their resistance to the peace negotiations.

"This is a time to stop state terrorism and the use of assassination to resolve disputes between peoples," said Diyab Nimr 'Alluh, the Fatah spokesman. "This kind of step will only revive the violence that the Palestinian National Authority has been working to stop.

"The Palestinian Authority will take all the necessary precautions to prevent attacks against Israel but we hold the Israelis to blame for all that is going to happen now."

Mr Allouh, who did time with al-Shaqaqi in an Israeli prison a decade ago, added: "Despite our political differences, I am saddened by Dr al-Shaqaqi's death and I am worried about the results." Islamic Jihad, which has the support of less than 2 per cent of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, rejects any co-existence with the Jewish state.

The larger Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, is ready to compromise, if only for tactical reasons.

One of its Gaza leaders, 'Imad al-Faluji, accompanied Mr 'Arafat to Jordan yesterday ostensibly as an editor of the Hamas weekly paper, AL-WATAN.

Islamic Jihad repudiates even this degree of acquiescence. 'Ali Saftawi, the publisher of its weekly newspaper, AL-ISTIQLAL, said: "We are against any normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab regimes. I would have refused to go to Amman with Mr 'Arafat."

Al-Shaqaqi Mourned; 'Abdallah Elected Leader

JN2910100095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Communique issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement "in Palestine" in Jerusalem on 29 October, mourning

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the death of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the movement]

[FBIS Translated Text] With hearts overflowing with faith in God's will and divine decree, and strongly determined to pursue the path of jihad and martyrdom, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine mourns with the masses of our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic nation and the free people of the world hero martyr Secretary General Dr. Fathi Ibrahim al-Shaqaqi, its unique leader and missionary cavalier. He fell dead by the bullets of Zionist treachery in Malta on Thursday, 26 October 1995, on his way back from Libya after mediating with a Palestinian delegation an end to the tragic situation of Palestinians suffering on the Libyan-Egyptian borders.

While mourning Abu-Ibrahim [Fathi al-Shaqaqi], the brother and great leader, whose loftiness, vigor, great faith in God, and confidence in his people, have always been bigger than the plot and stronger than the tragedy, we emphasize to the butchers of the Zionist entity, headed by terrorist Rabin, that this ugly crime will make every Zionist, wherever he is on earth, a target for our miraculous strikes and our bodies that are exploding with fury and revolution. We will turn the earth under their feet into Bet Lid, Ramat Eshkol, and al-Qatranah wherever they escape after today. We in the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine make a pledge before God, the Palestinian people, and the Arab and Islamic nation to continue the march, which was lit by the blood of our great martyr as it was earlier lit by 'Abbas Mawsawi, master of the resistance martyrs, as well as the blood of Hani 'Abid, Mahmud al-Khawaja, 'Imad 'Aql, and all righteous martyrs.

We stress to the masses of our nation everywhere that we will take revenge and will turn the earth into fire and retribution under the feet of the criminal Zionists. We will shake up the entity of arrogance and terrorism, which bases its pillars on cowardly assassinations and killing, heeding no norms or charters and condoning the blood of people and lands under the protection of forces of world repression, hegemony, and oppression.

We declare to the masses of our people and nation that immediately after the shura institutions in the Islamic Jihad Movement made sure of the martyrdom of the leader teacher Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, they elected brother Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah as a secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine. We, leadership and cadres, pledge, o immortal leader Abu-Ibrahim, to follow your bright path, guided by your chaste blood. We will not be humiliated or defeated. Glory and immortality to you and to all righteous martyrs. Death to the wicked terrorist killers. Disgrace and ignominy to those who bargain and relinquish rights. God is great. And will soon the unjust assailants know the vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, Jerusalem, 5 Jumada al-Thani, 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 29 October 1995

Statement Confirms 'Abdallah New Leader

JN2910180995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement has elected Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, secretary general of the Movement in Palestine, to succeed Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who was assassinated in Malta on 26 October. In a statement issued today, the movement confirmed the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's former secretary general.

The Palestinian Information Ministry has denounced the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, and called on all those who are eager to promote the peace process to exercise self-restraint and face this serious violation of the peace agreement with courage and a sense of responsibility.

In a statement, the ministry said that al-Shaqaqi's assassination occurred after the Palestinian National Authority and the opposition agreed to stop all acts of violence and respect agreements signed with the Israeli side. The ministry said that those who perpetrated the assassination have delivered a new stab to the peace process.

Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah condemned the murder, describing it as a criminal act. He extended condolences to the family of the martyr and to the Islamic Jihad Movement.

For its part, the Fatah Movement denounced the assassination and warned against the emergence of the phenomenon of political assassination to solve disputes in the region. In its statement, Fatah said that the incident reveal's Israel's real intentions and its aims to hinder the peace process march.

The National Movement for Change has considered the assassination of the Islamic Jihad Movement's secretary general as yet another proof of recklessness and the lack of the Israeli Government's sense of responsibility toward the entire peace process.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ramadan 'Abdallah Vows Revenge

LD3010110795 Tehran IRNA in English
1040 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Oct. 30, IRNA — The newly-appointed secretary general of Palestine's Islamic Jihad movement, Ramadan 'Abdallah, announced here Sunday [29 October] that the path of martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi would be followed strongly.

Speaking to IRNA, 'Abdallah stressed that Palestinian combatants were determined to continue their struggle till the complete defeat of the terrorists.

He announced that the movement will take revenge on the Zionists for the blood of al-Shaqaqi.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi was assassinated last Thursday in Malta by two agents of the Mosad, Israel's notorious foreign intelligence service. The killers fired at al-Shaqaqi five times.

He was returning to Damascus from Libya, where he had gone to persuade Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to halt the expulsion of Palestinians.

IRNA Says Rashad Qasim To Lead Movement

LD2910122395 Tehran IRNA in English
1111 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — Rashad Qasim was appointed as the new secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine following the martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, stated an announcement released by the movement.

The communique sent to IRNA here Sunday, has reiterated that the movement will take revenge on the Zionist terrorists for the blood of al-Shaqaqi.

The Islamic Jihad will continue its resistance against the Israeli regime and such crimes will lead to the assassination of many Zionists living throughout the world by the combatants of the movement, the announcement added.

Palestinian sources reported that al-Shaqaqi has been assassinated Thursday in the capital city of Malta.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry today categorically condemned the martyrdom of al-Shaqaqi and conveyed its condolences to the Muslim nation, particularly the Palestinian Muslims, over the sad incident.

Islamic Jihad Figures Comment on Killing

NC2910125695 Paris AFP in English
1137 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 29 (AFP)— The killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi by suspected Israeli Mosad agents is a disaster for the militant Palestinian group, Jihad officials said as hundreds protested here Sunday [29 October].

"It is a cataclysm which has hit the Palestinian people, the Arabs and the Moslems. Israel has without doubt struck a hard blow against the movement," Shaykh Nafidh 'Azzam told AFP.

But he pledged the "Islamic Jihad will continue its action on the same lines already drawn. Its strategy will not change, neither will its ideas and principles." [passage omitted]

Another Jihad leader 'Abdallah al-Shami told AFP al-Shaqaqi was "our teacher and our leader. He taught us not to bend in face of oppression and or to retreat from the battle when the fighting gets fierce."

Gaza Islamic Jihad Claims CIA Involved

TA3010091495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala' al-Saftawi, one of the leaders of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, claims that the CIA helped the Mosad assassinate Fathi al-Shaqaqi. According to al-Saftawi, the assassination was coordinated during the CIA director's latest visit to Israel in his meeting with the prime minister.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds that Islamic Jihad has asked several international bodies to persuade Israel to agree to bury al-Shaqaqi in Gaza.

Strike Declared in Territories

TA2910122695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad has declared a commercial strike and a one-hour halt to traffic throughout the territories on the morning of 30 October to mourn Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that mourning vigils attended by representatives of all the Palestinian factions took place at Gaza's Islamic University and al-Azhar University this morning.

Thousands of Supporters Riot on Gaza Border

TA3010113295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of Islamic Jihad supporters who arrived at the Netzarim junction this morning rioted and denounced Israel. Beefed-up IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units, which were sent to the site together with Palestinian police forces, dispersed the rioters. Many policemen are now leaving Gaza for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Janin prior to the IDF's evacuation of the town. Eli Bohadana reports:

The Islamic Jihad voiced its anger at the assassination of its leader, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi. Hundreds of supporters of the organization turned up at Netzarim junction this morning where they rioted. Israeli security forces in cooperation with the Palestinian police managed to restore order at the junction. Palestinian Authority security elements are warning the Islamic Jihad not to implement its threat to carry out retaliatory attacks against Israel. The elements warn that such actions could hold up the IDF's redeployment in Judaea and Samaria.

It has also been learned that hundreds of Palestinian police and army vehicles are now making their way to Jericho. They passed through the Erez junction this morning in a convoy accompanied by Israeli security forces and are due to arrive in Janin, the first West Bank town to be evacuated by the IDF.

PFLP-GC, Hamas Denounce Assassination

JN2910194495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Statement by "a responsible source" of the PFLP-GC "on the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a dastardly deed, the black hands, which are stained with the blood of our people, have assassinated Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the man and symbol who have devoted himself to martyrdom and who was a paragon in sacrifice. [passage omitted]

We in the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] while mourning the leader and martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, are confident that the comrades of the martyr, along with all the mujahidin everywhere will know how to retaliate against this dastardly murder at the appropriate time. The Zionists will then know how deluded they were when they thought that they realized their aims by assassinating the mujahidin leader al-Shaqaqi.

In the past, the Zionists assassinated 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Hizballah secretary general. However, through its continuous jihad, Hizballah proved that we are the nation of martyrdom, that martyrs inspire us and impart a fresh glow to the revolution.

The soul of mujahidin leader al-Shaqaqi which is now in paradise will constitute a beacon to all the mujahidin and free men.

We pledge to our hero martyr that we will continue the march of fighting and jihad until the liberation of land an man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC. [passage omitted]

Al-Quds radio mourns to its listeners the martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who was a member of its staff during the radio's early days. The martyr used to present in his own voice a Friday program beamed to our people under the headline "Call to the Steadfast Ones." [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, sent a cable to Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, and the members of the Islamic Jihad. The cable said: We received with extreme pain and regret the news of the martyrdom of our brother Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, who was assassinated by vile and murderous hands which forget that jihad will continue until doomsday, that the assassination of individuals, regardless of their status and position does not assassinate the causes and values in defense of which the mujahidin fight.

The cable says: We are sad because we have lost a dear brother who was our colleague in the march of jihad against the occupiers over many years and who played an important role at a stage where cowards and defeatists multiplied.

By extending condolences to you we are only seek solace for ourselves. We press on your hands and pray God to grant you success on the path of jihad and martyrdom. May God grant his brothers, and family solace and patience.

Hamas official spokesman, Ibrahim Ghawshah, sent a cable which was received by al-Quds radio on behalf of the leadership and cadres of Hamas. The cable said: We extend condolences to you and to ourselves on the martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi who fell on the path of liberating Palestine. We pray God to make paradise his final abode and grant him forgiveness. [passage omitted]

The unified leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has denounced the ugly crime which was perpetrated by the Zionist enemy tools; namely, the assassination of leader and struggler Fathi al-Shaqaqi. The unified leadership considered this crime as yet another evidence of the continuation and exacerbation of the policy of terror, killing, and physical liquidation by the Zionist murderers. The unified leadership asserted that the blood of the martyr will not go in vain and the enemy crime will not go unpunished.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hamas Blames Rabin for Assassination

NC2910085595 Paris AFP in English
0824 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] AMMAN, Oct 29 (AFP)— The Hamas militant group on Sunday [29 October] blamed the government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi and vowed to carry on the holy war against Israel.

"Al-Shaqaqi's assassination had a painful echo within Hamas ranks ... all indications show the Zionist Labour government was behind it," said Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah.

"The killing is part of Israeli plans to exterminate the Palestinians' resistance," Ghawshah told AFP.

"Palestinians should learn from the killing in order to face up to the Zionist's systematic campaign ... we should all stick to the Jihad (holy war) option," he added. [passage omitted]

Information Ministry Denounces Assassination

JN2910134495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Culture and Information has denounced the assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement. It also urged those who are seeking a successful peace process to control themselves and behave in a responsible and courageous way in the face of this serious violation of the peace agreements.

In a statement it issued, the Ministry of Culture and Information said that al-Shaqaqi was assassinated after the National Authority and the opposition agreed to stop all acts of violence and to respect agreements signed with the Israeli side. The ministry also asserted that the perpetrators have dealt a new stab to the peace process.

PA Avoids Blaming Israel

NC2910125395 Paris AFP in English
1142 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramallah, West Bank, Oct 29 (AFP)— Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority [PA] on Sunday [29 October] condemned the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi but avoided blaming Israel.

"We condemn and denounce this criminal act. We consider it to be aimed against all Palestinians," Palestinian labour minister Samir Ghawshah told AFP.

"The Palestinian Authority must open an inquiry to find out who carried out the act and take action against those who organised it," said Ghawshah, who is a member of the PLO's executive committee.

He hinted that the self-rule authority suspected Israel of being behind Thursday's shooting in Malta, but did not directly accuse the Jewish state.

"All the paths are possible. In the past Israel has made us accustomed to such acts," he said, presenting his condolences to the Rafah family of al-Shaqaqi.

The militant Palestinian group Jihad said Israeli secret services agents from Mosad were behind the attack, and vowed revenge.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Booby-Trapped Truck Explodes Near Algiers

NC2910093195 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 29 (AFP)—An attack by a booby-trapped truck killed at least six people and wounded dozens Sunday [29 October] in Rouiba, 15 kilometres (nine miles) east of Algiers, witnesses told AFP.

The explosion occurred at about 5:15 a.m. (0415 GMT), not far from a gendarmerie headquarters. The extremely violent blast destroyed a five-storey building.

No official figures were immediately available.

Blast Kills 6, Wounds 83

LD2910102695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A booby-trapped car exploded in the center of the town of Rouiba at dawn today, killing six citizens and injuring 83, according to a preliminary report by security services.

The explosion which occurred at about 0515 this morning also caused substantial material damage.

The minister of interior and local communities visited the location of the incident immediately.

FLN Secretary General Criticizes French Policy

AU3010075495 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 27 Oct 95 p 25

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, by Jose Garcon; place and date not given: "Certificate of Good Conduct From Paris"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Garcon] What do you think of France's policy toward Algeria?

[Mehri] The Chirac government supports the attempt of the military to legitimate their power with pseudo-elections. France gives a certificate of good conduct to a regime for which democracy is purely a facade. A presidential election that excludes an essential part of the population and takes place under martial law, that is, without personal and collective freedoms, is not an election.

[Garcon] It cannot have any effect?

[Mehri] It has already brought new decrees of censorship and new restrictions of freedom. The opposition has been gagged. Can one end such a severe crisis with such a gross deceit? No! That is why we are calling for an election boycott.

[Garcon] Are the southern European countries pursuing a different policy toward Algeria than the old colonial power France?

[Mehri] In the past, all of them called for real elections. Now they rather seem to tend toward accepting the deception with the elections. Thus, one may ask oneself whether they want to convince us to accept a second-class democracy.

[Garcon] Could France play a positive role in Algeria?

[Mehri] The close relations between our countries mean that France cannot ignore what is happening in Algeria. However, it is clear that any solution must come from the Algerians themselves. Our interests are not in contradiction to those of the European partners.

Egypt

Mubarak on Embassy Move, Elections, Economy

NC2910163195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1257 GMT 29 Oct 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak following his inauguration of Mubarak's Olympic village in Sammuhah, Alexandria; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ... on Amman's economic summit which began today, particularly as some people have demanded that the summit be postponed until some progress is made on the Syrian-Lebanese negotiating track and Israel's compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?

[Mubarak] Doubtlessly, this will have some repercussions on the Amman summit, particularly as this issue does not affect only the Arab countries but all Islamic countries. I am very afraid that this might adversely affect the peace process because it will make the concerned parties lose trust in any agreement, particularly as it has been agreed that the Jerusalem issue will only be decided at the negotiating table. This understanding was reached with the Israeli prime minister and I also talked with him about the issue. It was agreed that the Jerusalem issue should be set aside and not brought up for a while. Occasionally, however, they bring up the Jerusalem issue as a way of consolidating a certain status quo. I fear that, rather than consolidate a status quo, this will merely create confusion and a lack of trust in the peace process. The United States is a major factor in the Middle East peace process. This decision will cause a lack of trust. I hope that the U.S. President will take this point into account in view of this decision's future repercussions.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, you just said that this issue might adversely affect the peace process.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

How do you envision the future of the peace process, particularly as the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are already stumbling? Add to this the U.S. Congress' decision on Jerusalem. Do you think, for example, that the peace process will be halted for some time?

[Mubarak] I hope that the peace process will not stop because all of us are seeking peace. Nevertheless, we must constantly put things back on track, not place obstacles in the way. I hope that Israel will not bring up the Jerusalem issue again during the Amman summit. Otherwise things will become more complicated.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Really I fear that these, though they are only psychological things, will have a negative effect on the peace process and on the morale of all Muslim and Christian nations. It is not good for peace or for normalization. We need to keep the morale of concerned nations high. We need their support. We cannot operate without our people's support. If we continue doing these things without even waiting to decide the issue at the negotiating table, this will affect the people's morale and arouse strong public sentiments.

[Correspondent, in English] President Mubarak, a question from LTV International. Senior Egyptian officials have been holding talks with the IMF and World Bank and both have praised the economic reform. Recently also there has been an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES which gave views regarding the economy. Where does the economy stand, the position of Egypt stand?

[Mubarak, in English] Look, we are used to this. Whenever there is an event and Egypt [words indistinct], we have some points to be said especially in the Amman conference these days. We will find THE NEW YORK TIMES or any other newspaper having an article against our economy. Our economy is going very well. Our economic reform is going perfectly well. The IMF, we met with them last month. Everything is going according to the agreement and we are going to reach another agreement in the very near future. So, no problem with our economy but I could you tell that this article is just put just before the Amman conference. This will never make us change our concept, change our route under any circumstances.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what can you tell us about your excellency's hopes regarding the composition of the new parliament after issuing a call to everyone to vote and in light of the participation of all Egyptian political parties in the elections?

[Mubarak] For a long time now we have not been preventing Egyptian political parties from participating in the elections. I believe that most of them did not participate either because they did not have eligible cadres to run as candidates or because some of their members did not have sufficient popularity in their constituencies. Thank God, this time they are contesting the elections. We welcome the participation of all legal parties. Furthermore every citizen, if he wants us to have a sound democracy and real representation, must go and vote for the candidate he feels is suitable for him. The larger the number of voters, the more balanced our parliament will be.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, efforts are being made in the sphere of the Egyptian economic reform process that take into account the Egyptian citizen's needs and the homeland's basic future requirements. Could you please tell us what the main features of the Egyptian economy will be like in the coming stage?

[Mubarak] Look, concerning the Egyptian economy, it is useful to go back a few years and examine the situation before we began our economic reform program. Let's go back specifically to the time just before I delivered my 1st of May speech about the economy. We had reached a stage where we could not pay the installments. I don't want anyone to tell me these were debt repayment installments. No, we had other obligations to meet. Thank God, the loans which we borrowed to rebuild the infrastructure and make other renovations in the country were all written off. Perhaps the debt that was written off was even more than those loans. Our economic reform process is proceeding very well and in balanced steps, seeking the good of the vast majority of the people. I once said that economic reform will doubtlessly place burdens on the citizens. If we do not carry out reform, we will reach a point where not a single citizen will be able to live or find food and medicine. You remember when people used to search for medicines in the pharmacies and not find them. They had to go and buy them elsewhere at three times their value. I met many people in such a situation. At the same time I could not subsidize all commodities. You subsidize commodities when you have a population of 20 million. But the population increased to 30, 35, 40, and now 60 million. We could not subsidize commodities at the old rate because the subsidies would have consumed all our revenues and left us with no funds to spend on health and other services. How could we have lived? We reduced the subsidies in order to find revenues to spend on services. We are now spending on education and are enjoying an unprecedented expansion in this area. We have spent billions on infrastructure. Before we started rebuilding it, the infrastructure had been left without repairs for some 70 or 80 years. Perhaps

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

circumstances had prevented such renovations. I am not trying to criticize the post-revolution era. The revolution government had its own circumstances and the country was penniless. Still we had no water, the sewers were overflowing, and no one could use the telephones. We built roads, railroads, telephones, whole new towns, and made new investments. Without the economic reform program, the new towns would not have attracted residents because they would have lacked industries. Without reform, you cannot have industry. When we embarked on economic reform and allowed the national currency to find its own realistic exchange rate, the result was a whole lot of new industries. We have 700 or 800 factories in Madinat al-'Ashir min Ramadan, about 400 factories in Madinat Sittah Uktabar, about 200 factories in (Mubarak changes thought). All this industry means more output and wages for people. During a construction fair someone asked me why the rich were allowed to build villas and mansions. I asked him why he was unhappy with this situation. If the rich don't build here, they will go and deposit their money in foreign bank accounts. When the rich build new villages and sell homes to those who can afford them, they will employ thousands of laborers. After the new village is built, there will employment opportunities for sanitary workers, maintenance engineers, agriculturists, doctors, clinics and so on that will provide jobs to the citizens. We should not remain shut up in a cocoon. If someone buys a Mercedes, they express displeasure. But he pays a huge customs duty on it because he has money. The customs tariffs are revenue for the state and we use them to spend on educational services, on bread subsidy, on health services, and hospitals for the poor, at least as much as we can. Still we can hardly keep up. This is true. This is why I say that population growth at this rate is dangerous. A time will come when we might become like those countries which are really overpopulated. Our revenues are limited. Take the case of an employee who has a monthly income of 1,000 pounds. If he has four children, he will spend 250 pounds on each one including housing, clothing, and medical treatment. If he has 10 children, each child's share will be 100 pounds. Can you compare the one who gets 100 with the one who gets 250? Of course not. The same applies to the country as a whole. Our revenues our limited. We are making constant efforts to provide jobs for the citizens. If we have some unemployment, we are trying as hard as we can to eradicate it. Employment is not found only in Egypt—I know that I speak about too many subjects—but also in Britain, France, the United States, Italy, Japan, actually everywhere in the world. All of them are making constant efforts to find new investments, market their goods worldwide, and make room for more industry and more jobs for their citizens. This is what we are doing. We are working ourselves breathless to achieve this. Unemployment is not restricted to Egypt. Show me a country without unemployment. There is no such country. The United States is making constant efforts all the time to sell good in this and that place in order to open new opportunities for work. Look at France, England. Do you notice France's constant preoccupation with its unemployment problem? The same thing happens in England and Germany. Japan has an unemployment rate of two or three percent. It is not only Egypt which has unemployment. On the contrary we are doing everything humanly possible for the good of the citizens. The aim is this: I encourage the rich to create jobs for the poor. If I don't encourage the rich, where will I find money?

[Correspondent, in English] Another question from LTV International, you have been initiating a call for Arab reconciliation and solving the problem of the Iraqi people, and that was followed by a Shaykh Zayid initiative for the same end. So, are you optimistic about an imminent Arab reconciliation? And what is going to be Egypt's next step in this direction?

[Mubarak, in English] It is not a matter of next step or first step. We are doing our maximum efforts in that direction, but this will take some time. What I am saying about Iraq and still saying, we should find formula to save the Iraqi people from the difficult situation they are passing. This is my conception. About the reconciliation, we are trying hard. Some progress have taken place now between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

[Correspondent] What would you ask the Egyptian youths, the 6 October youths, in the next stage?

[Mubarak] I think that sports theaters will grow, such as the sports complex in Cairo. In Asyut, the armed forces are building a similar sports complex. Another will be built in Port Said and in other areas. These will enable the youths to play and exercise. This will enable us to field champions in the international arena. Therefore, I ask those involved in sports to show an interest in individual sports because we focus on team sports. We must give greater attention to individual sports.

[Correspondent] We would like Your Excellency to tell us of your impression about this sports village and the armed forces' participation in building such sports centers?

[Mubarak] There is a saying that a sound body leads to a sound mind. This sports complex will greatly influence the youths' life. That is why we are interested in building such complexes.

[Correspondent] A sports field is as important as a factory, school, and any economic establishment in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

building men. Could we hope for instructions from you to promote sports because there are obstacles in the way. The government excises taxes on sports equipment. Would you take into consideration this factor so that we can provide the necessary facilities for the individual sports Your Excellency urge us to practice.

[Mubarak] The government takes into consideration certain needs and is flexible as far as sports is concerned, because we are all interested in sports. There is no good health without sports and we say that a sound body has a sound mind. When a man has a sound mind, his production, thinking, and planning are better.

Mubarak Praises Jordanian, Palestinian Peace Efforts

NC2910212095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 29 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt and the Arab parties are keen on giving impetus to the Middle East peace process.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that during a luncheon with senior state officials after inaugurating Mubarak's Olympic City today, President Mubarak reviewed the efforts being exerted to promote the peace process despite the obstacles facing it. President Mubarak stressed that all the Arab parties are eager to reach a just and comprehensive peace that safeguards legitimate national rights, and this is what Egypt is endeavoring and exerting efforts to achieve in the region.

President Mubarak praised the peace steps that Jordan and the Palestinians made, as demonstrated by the signing of the peace agreements between Israel and both Jordan and the Palestinians. He referred to the efforts made by Jordanian King His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to consolidate the pillars of peace that can safeguard the legitimate rights of the Arabs.

'Arafat Meets With Muslim Brotherhood Leader

MM2710172895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Muhammad Salih: "'Arafat Meets with Muslim Brotherhood Leader in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — AL-HAYAH has learned that President Yasir 'Arafat met the day before yesterday with a prominent leader of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB], outlawed in Egypt. The meeting took place in the al-Andalus Palace, 'Arafat's place of residence in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, and lasted nearly three hours.

Informed sources said that 'Arafat discussed the Palestinian Authority [PA]'s efforts to arrange a meeting in Cairo between representatives of the PA and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), pointing out that 'Arafat consulted with the MB leader in the light of the close ties between the Brothers and the Hamas leadership. 'Arafat stressed the importance of suspending operations by the movement's members in order to provide the right atmosphere for dialogue between the two sides during the meeting expected to take place soon in Cairo and stressed the importance of not embarrassing the PA and not delaying the implementation of the second phase of the declaration of principles agreement.

Sources in the MB group said it was an ordinary meeting and pointed out that 'Arafat had met the MB leaders more than once during previous visits to Cairo, visited the MB headquarters last year, and met with their leaders. The sources said that current circumstances and the volatile crisis between the MB and the government have precluded a visit by 'Arafat to the MB headquarters.

The sources refused to comment on whether the MB leader has asked 'Arafat to intercede with President Mubarak with a view to easing the pressure exerted by the Egyptian Government on the MB for some months, and halting the measures aimed at preventing them from participating in the elections.

A Palestinian official stressed that the meeting between representatives of the PA and Hamas will be held in Cairo and that 'Arafat's meeting with the MB leader "comes within the context of consultation and mediation by the MB with a view to uniting Palestinian ranks."

The source denied that the MB and its members in Egypt are interfering with arrangements for the meeting. 'Arafat's meeting with the MB official is the first in nearly 10 months.

On the date of the forthcoming meeting, the source said: "Up until now, the final date for the meeting has not been decided." He pointed out that the two sides "have not been given the go-ahead by Egyptian authorities" but added that "preparations are being made to hold the meeting at any time."

The source stressed that the meeting will take place without any preconditions, and that all issues are open for discussion, but that the basis for this meeting is the agreement to unite the Palestinian ranks in this crucial phase, to support the PA in its role as the sole leadership, and reject infighting or the harming of the Palestinian people's interests.

AL-HAYAH has learned that there are two tendencies among the Egyptian authorities with regard to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

meeting, the first in favor and the second against. Both tendencies focus on the timing element, and would favor postponing the meeting until after the parliamentary elections scheduled for 29 November 1995.

The MB vehemently criticized the Congress' decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and described it as being an "unjust decision" and a "link in a chain of U.S. decisions aimed at reaffirming the Jewish entity."

The MB issued a statement yesterday which said that the decision "comes at a meaningful time, since the Jewish entity is celebrating — under false pretenses — the third millennium of their presence in Jerusalem." It added that the decision "was made after some Arab leaders signed the so-called second phase of the Gaza-Jericho agreement" stressing that the decision "is a link in a chain of U.S. decisions to reaffirm the Jewish entity and its hegemonic role in the whole region, to the detriment of the Islamic nation, its identity, history, and cultural role, despite the fact that the issue of Jerusalem and Palestine is the issue of the Islamic nation, as a whole and not the issue of some Palestinians or only some Arab rulers." The statement added that the decision "provokes the anger of the Islamic nation's peoples against the United States and threatens its interests."

The statement added that "this decision was expected and not unusual, confirmed by the basic direction of U.S. policy. It is a matter that should have given reason for forging a genuine Arab policy to confront it."

The statement stressed that "the genuine position of official policies through negotiations, agreements, and aid congresses — the latest being the Amman summit which aims to confirm Israeli hegemony over the region through a clearly drawn economic strategy — paves the way for the success and consolidation of U.S. Zionist strategies and policies."

In conclusion the statement stressed that "the MB, with all national forces, reaffirm their rejection of this unjust decision and the official policies calling for cooperation with the Zionist entity, and their rejection of and warning against the forthcoming Amman economic congress."

MB Spokesman on Amman Summit, Jerusalem Bill

NC2810191295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with MB official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, in Cairo, by Jihad al-'Idan, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] What is the latest news of the MB [Muslim Brotherhood] members detained in Egyptian jails?

[Al-Hudaybi] MB members have been referred to court, but the hearing was adjourned. The hearing will take place tomorrow, God willing.

[Al-'Idan] Some of the MB detainees reportedly confirmed that they were tortured and mistreated? Do you have any reports on this?

[Al-Hudaybi] No, no. So far the MB members who have been detained have not been exposed to torture. However, conditions in jail are not the same as outside.

[Al-'Idan] How does the MB view the Economic Summit scheduled to open in Amman tomorrow?

[Al-Hudaybi] We reject it. This is a branch of a root that we reject. The root is the establishment of the state of Israel, which we reject. We believe that all these conferences are intended to abolish the Arab boycott of Israel and to (?enhance) the Jewish state among the Arab and Islamic countries and to enable it to dominate the region. We are opposed to and reject this.

[Al-'Idan] How do you view the U.S. decision to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to holy Jerusalem?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have released statements and declared that we reject this decision. We maintain that this decision means further bias toward Zionism and the state of the Israeli enemy. We reject this. Anyway, Jerusalem is not for the Palestinians or Arabs alone. It is for Muslims in all parts of the world. It is the duty of all Muslims throughout the world to take a stand to prevent Zionist domination of this unique holy place.

[Al-'Idan] How can these forms of normalization of ties and plots be confronted?

[Al-Hudaybi] We are opposed to all this. We call for vigilance and we reject capitulation. We have declared our opposition to this for many years.

[Al-'Idan] The Tehran Radio News and Reports Program thanks Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the official spokesman of the MB in Egypt.

Jihad Says Croatia Extradited 'Militant' Leader

NC2810174395 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (AFP) - The Egyptian armed group Jihad has accused Croatia of extraditing a militant leader to Egypt, where they said he was being tortured.

But the Croatian ambassador to Cairo, Danijel Bucan, denied the accusations, while Egyptian authorities refused to comment.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"We have received reliable information that Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim has been extradited by Croatia to Egypt and its blasphemous regime. He arrived in Cairo where he is being subjected to barbaric tortures in the buildings of the state security services," the Jihad said in its latest bulletin the "Mujahidin" published Wednesday in Switzerland.

But Bocan said the accusations were baseless as "Egypt has never called for his extradition and secondly he is no longer in Croatia and Zagreb could therefore not extradite him."

Croatia has insisted that Qasim, a spokesman for the main outlawed militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], arrived September 12 from Amsterdam and was expelled two days later to an unspecified country.

But al-Jama'ah has rejected the Croatian version and has claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack in the Croatian port of Rijeka that killed one person and injured 29, threatening further reprisals if Zagreb continued to hold Qasim.

Egypt has obtained the extradition of dozens of wanted militants from Europe and Arab countries since March 1992, when Islamists began a violent campaign to bring down the government that has left almost 900 dead.

Qasim lives in political asylum in Denmark.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Denounces U.S. Embassy Move

NC2810185195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1705 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—Grand Imam of al-Azhar his eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq expressed regret over the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In a statement he issued today, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq said: With this action, the United States is merely placing obstacles before the peace process which it purports to be supporting. This is an unfair support. It is a support for the oppressive aggressor and a disregard for and destruction of the UN resolutions which ensured the continued status quo of Jerusalem as it was before the 1967 aggression. The shaykh of al-Azhar then asked: Does not the United States, specially the Congress, see that this decision weakens U.S. prestige in the whole world.

He added: The Congress decision is a direct invitation to other countries to follow suit and move their embassies to Jerusalem. This would be an unjust and arbitrary recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The United States bears responsibility for this.

The shaykh of al-Azhar recalled that Muslims believe in God Almighty's saying in the Koran "Such days [of varying fortunes] We give to men and women by turns." The day will definitely come when the United States will find no support from anyone when it is hit by political, social, or economic catastrophes.

He added: The Arabs and Muslims have maintained friendship with the United States and the west in general for almost three quarters of a century. They are sincere in their friendship and fulfill their pledges according to Islamic shari'ah. Has the United States, the leader of the world, risen to the moral responsibilities of this leadership, acted fairly without incurring injustice, and not deviated from justice.

He then said: Jerusalem and its holy places are very dear to all Muslims. Their hearts yearn to liberate it from those who seized control of it, killed people, plundered possessions and lands, violated honor, spread corruption, desecrated the Dome of the Rock with their transgressions, violated the land of the al-Aqsa al-Mosque and its sanctity, and are determined to destroy and erase it.

He noted that the peace efforts are still reeling and colliding with the obstacles put up by Israel. Mediators continue to hope that peace between Israel and its neighbors will be achieved so that it will become a neighbor that respects the rights of the neighborhood and so that all can live in peace beneficial to humanity at large. He pointed out that the Congress decision came at a time when everyone is following up and waiting for the success of the peace process.

The shaykh of al-Azhar's statement stressed that Jerusalem and the Palestinians' rights are not goods for sale or an issue of gain and loss. It said: This is an issue of the nation which represents a fifth of the world population and which has in its hands humanity's wealth of science, resources, and needs. It is an influential force militarily, politically, socially, and culturally. He added: This nation does not hesitate in uniting its stand and rallying together in all these fields in order to defend itself just as it does when it stands as one rank five times a day in prayers.

The statement noted that this unfair decision was not expected from the friendly United States, who is making endeavors and possibly toiling in the peace efforts. It emerged that the advocators of peace have become the advocators of treachery and assassination of the land, honor, and holy places. They do not respect the rights of others, do not advocate good deeds but spread

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

corruption on earth with their hostility and with the resources and technology at their disposal. But God doth encompass them from behind. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take.

The shaykh of al-Azhar called on all international organizations to play their role in establishing general peace in the world and to oppose these obstacles and such a decision which was issued at a time when everyone was looking toward peace. He said that the al-Azhar is confident that all the peoples of the earth believe in peace and in the need to provide security to all the people and they must urge leaders, governments, and parliaments to play their role in opposing the transfer of embassies to Jerusalem and to leave this issue for discussion at the time set for it in the ongoing peace talks.

The statement also called on organizations in the Islamic world to take a courageous stand commensurate with the gravity of this issue and the danger it poses to the future of the Islamic nation and its generations.

Concluding his statement, the shaykh of al-Azhar appealed to kings, presidents, princes, and governments to consult, rally together, end their silence, and inform their peoples of the dangers they are facing in this age.

'Broad Agreement' Reached on Barcelona Document

BR2710113295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1134 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Unattributed report: "Solana: Broad Agreement in Egypt on Barcelona Final Document"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (EFE) — Upon concluding a 12-hour visit to Egypt of the European "troika," Foreign Minister Javier Solana said today (Thursday 25 Oct) that they reached broad agreement with that country on the final document of the Barcelona conference.

Solana, speaking at a news conference held at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry before traveling to Beirut, said: "Egypt is giving impetus for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Barcelona," to be held on 27 and 28 November, and he called his talks in Cairo with his counterpart, 'Amr Musa, "fruitful."

The European "troika" — currently comprising Spain, France, and Italy — was unable to meet with President Husni Mubarak due to the fact that Mubarak was in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria meeting with the president of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), Yasir 'Arafat.

Solana told reporters that the "troika" discussed the Middle East peace process with Musa. The peace process is currently "going through a very positive period, due to the impetus given by Washington and the Amman summit," which is to begin on Sunday.

In addition, the Spanish foreign minister said that his Egyptian counterpart informed him of the current situation in his country, which has been suffering from a wave of attacks and confrontations between radical Islamic groups and the security forces since 1992.

Solana said that terrorist activities in that country had fallen off considerably and that "tourism figures have risen" as a result. [passage omitted]

The aim of this trip is to confirm the EU's economic commitments to associated countries on the other side of the Mediterranean and to the peace process.

Another one of the aims is to bolster bilateral relations and encourage preparations for the next Euro-Mediterranean Conference, which will be held in the Spanish city of Barcelona and which will be attended by the foreign ministers of those Mediterranean countries with whom the EU has concluded association agreements.

Tunisia has already signed the association agreement and Israel has postponed its signature for technical reasons from 30 October until 20 November.

According to Yamal al-Bayumi [name as published], Egypt's deputy foreign minister, in December and January Egyptian officials will continue negotiations with the EU in Brussels on the association agreement.

Al-Bayumi said that in the fourth round of negotiations held last month in Brussels, both parties reached an agreement on the preliminary wording of the articles approved by the EU and Egypt, and set out the points that have to be examined in closer detail, such as the liberalization of the trade in agricultural products and support for the Egyptian industrial sector.

French Minister Discusses Fight Against 'Terrorism'

NC3010084195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—French Justice Minister Jacques Toupon asserted that his country is unshakably determined to confront the activities of the armed extremist networks that are attacking France in a vile and blind way. He noted that this confrontation will respect the laws and rules that govern the work of his country's institutions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM while he is leading his country's delegation to the meeting of Francophone countries' justice ministers, he said the ultimate objective of terrorist actions is to destabilize the democratic system in France and impel its representatives to take stances and measures on the national and international levels that conflict with republican legitimacy and the ideals of freedom, equality, and fraternity on which that legitimacy is based.

In the interview published today, the French justice minister said: If things reach the point where a state like France, which is established on the rule of law, abandons its fundamental principles and high ideals to retaliate for terrorist action, it would be presenting its enemies with their first victory. After that they will disseminate their political and religious propaganda and condemn the extraordinary measures and any State violations.

The minister went on to say: A response to terrorist aggression cannot be limited to the judicial and legal fields. It requires the mobilization of all the nation's resources. He noted that the French people are ready to resist terrorist pressure and unite their collective efforts to liquidate terrorism.

But the French minister said he regretted that solidarity among the various countries, especially European ones, on this issue is not enough. He said: Fighting Islamic religious extremism and the resulting terrorist operations is a major task we shoulder. Otherwise our societies will be burdened by extremism and terrorism.

Regarding recent French nuclear tests and the various angry reactions that have been expressed, the French justice minister said: France is carrying out a limited number of tests, probably six, to ascertain the effectiveness and credibility of our nuclear weapons until there is a ban on all tests. Our short-term objective is to halt all nuclear tests [sentence as received].

Libya

Unity Committee Denounces Amman Economic Summit

LD2910154195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Statement issued by the General People's Committee for Unity on the Amman economic summit; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Amman economic conference is being held as a subsequent link to the Casablanca conference in the shadow of growing mass rejection of this conference. Within its declared objectives this conference recognizes the legitimacy of the Israeli enemy in the Arab region. Furthermore, Western backing to the Israelis attempts to push through their schemes aiming at enabling the Israelis to control the fate of the Arab nation politically and economically.

The projects submitted by the Israelis to this suspect conference have exposed those schemes. The Israeli projects have revealed their intentions to abolish the Arab League and its institutions by laying down Middle Eastern arrangements for security and cooperation as an alternative to the Arab League and for its institutions to serve as a basis for the Arab system.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity had previously alerted the Arab masses to the dangers involved in both the Casablanca and Amman conferences as they fall within the schemes of the Israeli-American alliance aimed at feeding the Israeli hegemony through the arteries of Arab resources and money.

While the secretariat makes these facts available before the Arab nation's masses, it would like to stress the following:

1. The condemnation of the Amman economic summit and rejection of all consequences resulting from it which give legitimacy to dealing with the Israelis and all arrangements that lead to the submission to them.

2. This summit is bound to realize for the Israelis the total control over Arab economies and resources and the normalization of economic relations with the Arab regimes that had submitted to them and consequently a justification for ending Arab boycott laws in practical terms, although those Arab regimes do not have the right to abolish the Arab boycott laws because those laws are based upon a unanimous Arab decision.

3. This conference would make the Israelis a prevailing and controlling economic force in the region and would contribute to the deprivation of Arab economies' capabilities for progress.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity, while stressing this, calls on the masses of the Arab nation to reject the results of the Amman economic summit, boycott all the companies, institutions, and individuals who are taking part in this suspect conference, and apply the rules of the Arab boycott to them.

JANA Editor Condemns Amman Summit

LD2810214495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tomorrow, the Jordanian capital will witness a treacherous step which is no less

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

dangerous than that posed by the colonialist Baghdad Pact to pan-Arab security, which the Arab nation has made large sacrifices to topple, where the so-called "Amman Economic Summit Conference" will be held with the participation of the Israeli enemy and the United States.

The JANA Arab Affairs editor has commented on this summit by saying:

No doubt that the Israeli enemy, the first beneficiary of this summit, was working on manipulating this conspiracy which the crusading West had planned to invade the Arab homeland culturally, politically, and economically; penetrate the Arab societies to tear apart the Arab homeland from within with unlimited U.S. support; control the potential of the Arab homeland; and subjugate it to the U.S.-Israeli military and economic hegemony.

The Israeli enemy's participation in the Amman economic summit, which is considered one of the most dangerous of projects aimed at tearing apart the unity of the Arab nation and constituting a big insult to it, is an imminent danger to pan-Arab security. It is a matter which calls on the masses of the Arab nation and its active forces to confront this dangerous conspiracy against the entire Arab existence. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds News Conference

LD2810121395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2043 GMT 26 Oct 95

[News conference by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with foreign and domestic correspondents on 26 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Qadhdhafi] Were you able to send yesterday's news? [indistinct response from correspondents]. I did not see anything in Egyptian newspapers.

The new report since yesterday's meeting is that the U.S. Senate has decided to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. In this context, we will say that this has demonstrated U.S. scorn for the Security Council and the United Nations. While America and the Israelis are discarding Security Council resolutions, they are demanding that Libya and others must implement the Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council resolution dated 20 Hanibal [August] 1980 stipulates the non-recognition ...[pauses]... the number of the resolution is 478. [passage omitted]

The Security Council stipulated that even missions like consulates and others must be moved from Jerusalem. America is defying the Security Council. The U.S. Senate is the authority in America. One could say that the U.S. President may have objections, but a fundamental American institution, the Senate, is scorning the Security Council, the United Nations and the UN Charter. These are the resolutions on Jerusalem. They are in front of you — resolutions; two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight. Eight resolutions have been passed by the Security Council that have not been implemented at all by the Israelis.

Look at the contradiction. America is demanding that Libya and other states must implement the Security Council resolution, even if they are unjust, while they are scorning Security Council resolutions. How should the world act regarding this kind of contradiction? The issue is one of colonialism which America is imposing on the world.

Yesterday, Rabin announced that Jerusalem will not be divided, will not be a second Berlin and will never be a capital for any Arab state. He asserted that they will not allow Jerusalem to be a second Berlin.

However, for your own information, only 5 percent of Jerusalem is still not annexed; 95 percent has already been annexed [by Israel].

As usual I have only got bad news for you about Arabs. The other bad news is, Bahrain received yesterday 16 American aircraft. As there is no aircraft carrier in the region, America has decided to transform the island of Bahrain into an American aircraft carrier. How can any one still talk about Bahrain as an independent state? The presence of American aircraft in the region is a serious matter; it is a threat to the region as a whole. Why are they there and against whom? [passage omitted]

I have not seen you interested in the issue of the blacks in America. Are you afraid of America? Well there is a possibility that we might organize marches for the Red Indians. [Words indistinct]

[Talking to a correspondent] You have been sent here by AL-HAYAH. Tell me, who gives you money to criticize Libya?

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Here the truth is the fact that AL-HAYAH's reports on Libya are all lies. I mean its reporting is aimed at serving a particular purpose; they are false reports. It does not really matter as long as you publish something true about Libya. As long as something is true we will not criticize you; you are free to publish it. But why should you publish lies? Who is going to benefit from it? Alright, say Libya has fallen, will this make you happy? Will you say thank goodness Libya has fallen but long live Israel and America?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This will be the a catastrophe. You as Arabs and as members of oppressed peoples, what would you benefit from the fall of a revolution like the Fatih revolution? Only imperialism, Zionism, and anti-freedom forces will benefit from such a fall. Well if money is a problem, we will give money but you should publish the truth even if it is against us.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] If it is not about money, it must that you are afraid of America. Well as what you have been publishing is not true you should say so. You ought to admit that you were forced to publish lies.

This was the attempt which was initiated from Libya peacefully. When they check it, confront it, and reject it, that will mean the Palestinians will drop the olive branches and pick up the rifles. From Libya through Egypt to Palestine, or from the Sea to Palestine or from Syria and Lebanon to Palestine, from Jordan to Palestine. They have to choose either the olive branches or the rifles, our people should return to their land. [passage omitted]

This is the last chance in which we are trying to persuade them [Palestinians] to remain in Libya between three and six months at least until the end of the academic year. There are 10,000 Palestinian students in Libya, 23,000 students in Syria, and 34,000 students in Lebanon.

If this period elapses without the world recognizing the right of all those in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Libya, and all the Palestinian diaspora in the world to return to the land of Palestine which is situated between the river and the sea, it means that in three to six months we will see again thousands upon thousands [of Palestinians] at al-Sallum gate and thousands upon thousands by sea heading for Palestine and not to Syria and Lebanon.

If the world refuses to accept them they will stay at sea and better still let them drown in the sea so that the world will know that what is going on now is mere falsification and lies and that the question of this people has not been solved and that their land is still occupied.

Let them understand that we love peace, and that it is in the interest of Jews to allow Palestinians to return to Palestine. This will make the use of force against Israelis impossible. Who would use any kind of weapon, particularly those which they fear, when there are 5 million Palestinians among the Jews in Palestine?

It would be in the interest of Jews ...[pauses]... and the best protective shield for them would be the presence Palestinians among them, and the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state for Jews and Arabs. [passage omitted]

This is the last chance. I am trying to intervene personally with the brother Palestinians so that they will stay in Libya for three to six months to see what will happen. After that period, there will be movements in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Libya, with or without permission; Palestinians will move. It will be like the revolution of stones [reference to intifadah]. Who propelled it? Who was able to control it? No one could control it.

Once the angry generation in the refugee camps of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan start to move, no one will be able to prevent them. Otherwise, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan will become an arena for battle with that angry generation and the children of stones, just like what is happening now in Palestine. [passage omitted]

This is what I wanted to say about Palestinians. I hope that we will be able to persuade them to wait that long. We will try.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Expulsion. Do mean expulsion from Palestine or Libya? I said that we are trying to persuade them to stay that long in Libya, if we can. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have good relations [with Egypt], but they are not developing. We have brotherly relations, and we feel as though we are a united country. However, there are no developments. There is no free Arab will in developing joint Arab action. This is a fact which we must admit. We must admit that there is U.S. and Israeli interference in Arab internal affairs, which has paralyzed developments in Arab relations, even bilateral relations, and relations between Libya and Egypt. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Lack of meeting between President Mubarak and yourself has triggered rumors in Egypt that there may be an undisclosed crisis between Egypt and Libya. Public opinion says there is an undisclosed crisis between Egypt and Libya.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, there is no crisis. Basically, there is nothing new. These things; whether we have agreed or differed on them ...[pauses]... there is nothing new.

[Correspondent] Particularly After [Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and [Information] Minister Safwat Sharif's visit to the Jamahiriyah....

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] No, I asked them to come and gave them a message for the president [Mubarak].

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Corresondent] The result of the visit was not announced.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, no, I asked them to come and gave them a message for the president, which he has received. That is all.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It concerned attempts to reunite Arab ranks and free the Arab will faced by the Middle Eastern [al-sharq awsatiyah], which is tearing the Arab nation apart, the Casablanca conference which is harming the Arab nation, the Amman conference, Barcelona [conference] which is like the Baghdad Pact, the deployment of U.S. aircraft in Bahrain, the creation of a U.S. fifth fleet in the heart of the Arab homeland in Bahrain, [corrects himself] the Red Sea. The Arab nation is facing very serious threats.

[Correspondent, AL-AHALI newpaper] What was the content of the talks yesterday between yourself and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the problem of the return of Palestinians, as you said, or their repatriation to their occupied territories, particularly since it has been announced that you have requested a reprieve, or there are negotiations on giving them a three month reprieve to find a settlement of the crisis which has been created by the West, as you said?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] He ['Abd-al-Majid] had heard that I was going to hold a news conference, that I was going to hold a meeting with you. He said that on the occasion of the holding of the conference we feel optimistic that brother Palestinians will be persuaded to stay in Libya for three months at least until we study the problem. I said that it would good to find a solution to enable the Palestinians to return to Palestine, not only from Libya but from throughout the diaspora. It would be good if that could be achieved within three months. This is what he told me.

[Correspondent, AL-AHALI newspaper] Is there a coordination between the Libyan move to return the Palestinians to their land and the Palestinians in Syria and Lebanon, and the Palestinian popular leaders or the rulers of those countries?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally, all the Palestinians are willing and they are regarding this as a historic opportunity to move toward Palestine. However, they are afraid that the Arab governments might prevent them, fearing the United States and Israel.

[Correspondent Shafiq 'Ali, ROSE AL-YUSUF newspaper] Correspondent Shafiq Ahmad 'Ali of Egyptian weekly ROSE AL-YUSUF. Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the Israeli entity on occupied Palestinian territory, has written a book called The New Middle East, an Arabic edition of which has been published in Cairo. In his book, Shim'on Peres says that Israel is facing a difficult choice between achieving greater Israel either by controlling the largest geographic plot in the Arab homeland or by controlling Arab markets. They have been using the Oslo accord and its sisters to deprive Arabs of their main and last weapon, namely the Arab boycott. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thanks you, we will try. Naturally, the Palestinians' attempt to return [home] from Libya serves that direction.

[Correspondent] (?You have said that) Arab laborers in Libya will be organized and provided with work contracts, health cards and the like. Does that mean that all Arab laborers in Libya who do not have such documents will be deported?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It seems that the people's committees believe so and this is the right thing. This is how it seems.

[ITN correspondent, in English] A question from British television ITN. I want to make quite clear that I understand something. Are you saying that the deportation will now cease for at least another three months? Can you tell us: are deportations happening over the next few days, for example?

[Al-Qadhdhafi, in English] Repeat you question.

[Unidentified voice translates the sentence into Arabic] [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We try to convince them to stay in Libya between three to six months.

[Correspondent] In the past, you categorically rejected the Barcelona Conference. Also, Libya has announced that it was rejecting the Amman conference, for it was a multi-party conference for negotiations. However, would you not agree with me that there have been other Arab alternatives since 1957, like the Arab joint defense agreement, the Arab common markets and other Arab agreements which could constitute an alternative for this regional meeting in Barcelona? [passage omitted]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First the Arab common market and the Arab joint defense agreement and everything else that is agreed at the Arab league concerns only Arabs and the Arab will. Other conferences, like the Barcelona, the Amman conference, and the Casablanca conference, are all outside the Arab will. And this is the difference between them, the former failed whereas the latter have succeeded. Everything that was agreed by Arabs themselves has failed; everything else imposed upon us

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

by colonialism has succeeded. It was not us who agreed to hold Middle East talks; rather it was the anti-Arab bloc which imposed it upon us in a bid to dismember the Arab nation. It is, therefore, a very dangerous alliance; it is like the Baghdad Pact. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Italian radio correspondent, in Italian followed by Arabic translation] I am a journalist from the Italian radio. I would like to know your opinion about the current situation [of relations] between Italy and Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No doubt Italy's policy now is considered as supportive to Libya. There is no doubt at the moment that Italy takes pro-Libyan stances at international bodies and at the EU. Of course, Italy benefits from being pro-Libyan economically: it has all sorts of companies working inside Libya. Also there is a huge Libyan investment in Italy. However, all these will be to no avail if Italy does not pay reparations to the Libyan people for colonizing its country. Libya cannot relinquish its right to reparations from Italy no matter how much Italy tries to be friendly toward it. Politically, one must acknowledge that Italy takes today pro-Libyan stance; Italy defends Libya at international bodies. But thus far Italy has failed to make any positive contribution; it failed to resolve the problem of Lockerbie, of the UTA or the American blockade against Libya which has been going on since the Reagan era. Italy says nice things about Libya but there is nothing tangible yet for the Libyan people from the Italian position. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Ahmad Murad, AL-'ARABI AL-NASIRI newpaper] My name is Ahmad Murad from AL-'ARABI AL-NASIRI. Brother Colonel, yesterday you criticized the UN role in the world which has become, as you said, a sword hanging over the neck of many countries, the Arab countries in particular. Is Libya thinking, therefore, of leaving the United Nations?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have already answered this question. Our job is to convince all countries to leave the organization which is controlled by four states and set up and an alternative United Nations that can at least be used to defend ourselves, the small peoples, from the new ghoul and the control of the major countries which have the right to the veto. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] But Libya is still a member of the United Nations.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] of course it is still a member, but we are working to get out of it.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency: What is your opinion on the Algerian crisis and in particular France's role in this crisis? Also, what is your opinion on the things which have been taking place in France?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What crisis are you talking about?

[Correspondent] I was talking about the crisis between the Algerian and the French presidents and about the fundamentalist groups working in France.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not interested in political and diplomatic problems arising between two presidents. Sorry I cannot answer you. I have nothing to say about 'Abu-Ammar being thrown out of the dinner banquet in New York or about Chirac's refusal to meet with Zeroual. I only deal here with strategic matters. [passage omitted]

One feels sorry to see Egyptian envoys going to occupied Palestine, shaking hands with Israelis and meeting them, and Israelis going to Egypt every week. [passage omitted]

Egypt's interest is in Sudan and Sudan's interest is in Egypt. Any attempt to hinder the achievement of that interest is tantamount to treason. Sudan is closer to Egypt than Israel and the United States are. Egypt's future lies in Sudan, where the water and future are. What does Egypt have? There will be a crisis there in a few years. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM daily in Tunisia: A question on your position regarding the recent call by some Arab leaders to hold an Arab summit to achieve reconciliation, a second question is about Libya's abandonment of its seat in the Security Council for the benefit of Egypt, does this mean a final desertion? Thank you.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course we have said it that this was not a [Security] Council as America does not respect its resolutions. The Council does not demand that Israel implement its resolutions but it does demand Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Yugoslavia. This is not a Council, this is another farce.

Concerning the Arab summit, I had called for it before the situation come to the state it is now, before the capitulation of Jordan and the capitulation of Yasir 'Arafat. The capitulation process was regrettably ahead of us. With whom can one meet? 'Arafat or [King] Husayn or [the amir] of Qatar or Bahrain. What can they say? These are Israeli colonies. Had they been revolutionaries fighting colonialism one could meet them, but when they themselves have signed the surrender and accepted capitulation, what can one do with them? We will establish understanding with the people who succeed them. I will not create those people but they themselves are creating them. Their behavior is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

creating the [next] leaders, will creat the revolutionaries. They fear revolution yet they themselves create all the justifications for revolution. They are digging their own grave.

[Fathi Mahmoud, AL-AHRAM newspaper] Fathi Mahmoud from AL-AHRAM newspaper. Do you think that amid the current deteriorating Arab situation under the given circumstances, the period of three or six months will be enough to resolve the problem of the Palestinian diaspora which has not been solved for over half a century? On this occasion, we in AL-AHRAM newspaper intend to organize a big seminar on this topic and would like your participation in any form you find appropriate.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you for the invitation. We will, God willing, try to take part. However, why did recognizing the [Israeli] enemy and surrendering to it happen so easily with handshaking and embracing? Why does the return of the Palestinians, who are ready on the border, not take place as easily?

[Italian correspondent] I am an Italian journalist from [word indistinct]. I would like to ask your excellency, Italy has not produced any result in regard of the Lockerbie incident. What is your opinion? I would also like to add that the judges in Italy have been waiting for the last 15 years for the evidence Libya is supposed to provide?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course Italy has done nothing and matters are still the same, the American embargo on Libya, air embargo and freezing of assets, as well as banning Libya from buying or selling arms or the production of oil. [passage omitted]

Concerning the evidence, it is America and Britain who have to produce the evidence. Libya has got no evidence. Libya is not the suing party to provide evidence. Libya was accused and in response it asked them to produce the evidence. It is they who did not produce the evidence. Italy has to go to America and Britain and ask them for the evidence. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad Uthman, Malian Radio and Television] Your Excellency the Leader: I am Dr. Muhammad Uthman, a specialist on the Third World at the Malian radio and television. I have come here with a host of questions which concern listeners to the radio station I represent. They would be interested in your replies to these questions which concern the current economic situation in Libya after many years of embargo, Libya's relations with brotherly Arab and European countries, and the West in general. Would it be possible for me to learn about the Libyan Jamahiriyah's position on the points I mentioned, and what is the strategy on which Libya is building its current and future foreign policy? Has there been any change in its foreign policy?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Generally speaking, your question is not clear and it is difficult to answer. You will have to give me zero for my answer [laughter].

[Correspondent, in English followed by Arabic translation] My name is [word indistinct] of Radio Netherlands. You spoke about the deportation of those who entered Libya illegally. Have you, for example, contacted the competent international bodies of the International Labor Organization [ILO] about removing those in a more organized way? Have you contacted UN bodies concern with refugees?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Those who have entered illegally are not considered refugees. The international organization you mentioned is not concerned about this issue. Those people are not refugees, which rules out contacting that organization. However, the ILO and the United Nations were informed by the Libyan Foreign Liaison [Committee], which requested 1,500 flights to take them back in comfort and safety. However, the United States, which controls the Security Council, rejected the [request] to transport them by air. Consequently, they will suffer on their journey home by road or on foot. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Brother leader, you said yesterday that the Islamist forces were the most qualified to carry out changes and the alternative in the Arab world. You also talked about an alliance between blacks, Muslims, and Red Indians. Does all this mean that Libya support these Islamist forces?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, No, I did not say they were qualified.

[Correspondent] You said they were not united and urged a unity between them.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No, I said they were not qualified. The Islamist forces have no platform; vengeance is their program. They are vengeful and disunited groups. Even in Egypt you might find two different groups in the same street with no liaison between them whatsoever. The main aim of these groups is to carry out act of vengeance. They are assassins. This word is derived from the Arabic word hashshashin [Isma'ili sect very famous for their militancy in the 13th century]. This is their main occupation [consumption of hashish]. They have no vision. They are a disorganized force with no common background or platform. They are like microscopic organisms.

As soon as [Rached] Ghannouchi [leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist party Ennahdha] left Tunisia, they con-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sidered him as a spent force and set up a new group outside his control. If Ghannouchi reaches an agreement with the [Tunisian] government tomorrow, surely the new group will reject such an agreement.

Also, as soon as Abassi Madani was put behind bars, new groups, which had nothing with Madani, sprung up. Even if the [Algerian authorities] release him tomorrow and reach an agreement with him, the new groups will not accept this agreement. The main purpose of these groups is vengeance. Today, Arab leaders face the wrath of these groups. There is no doubt about that. Also, Europe and America might also face the wrath of these groups.

Their acts of vengeance have started to hit Europe; the latter is paying today the price of its flagrant interference in the Arab homeland. They interfered in anything and everything; God has sent the Islamists with their vengeance to Europe to haunt them.

The French army cannot prevent their acts of vengeance. The army cannot fight people with booby-trapped pens and cases. The French army can never deal with things like that even if the whole of the French army is sent out to the streets near the Elysee. America cannot not stop acts of vengeance. Its huge army and nuclear bombs could not stop someone bombing a skyscraper.

The best solution is for them [Europeans and Americans] to stay at home and for us to stay in our homes. Water divides us; water is their best security. They should stay on their side of the Mediterranean and stop these ploys, like the Barcelona conference, the United Nations and the Middle East conference. They should leave us alone. Otherwise, they will be haunted by the evils which they sent us.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, I said it today as well. The Islamic groups are only the beginning of the anger to come. An enlightened and nationalist revolution is coming and it will surpass the vindicative acts of the dispersed Islamic groups and it will have the final say. I am certain that the revolution of the Arab nationalism is inevitably coming from the Ocean to the Gulf.

[Correspondent, AL-SHA'B newspaper] [Words indistinct] Regarding Iraq, there is an American scheme currently implemented in Iraq publicly and in front of the Arabs and Muslims to liquidate the 20 million Iraqi people. Four days ago even the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said that there were actually 4 million children, women and elderly threatened with certain death, in addition to the two and a half million who have already died. Firstly, how do you see the end of the catastrophic sanctions imposed on Iraq or the presence of the U.S. fleets and aircraft in the [Arab] Gulf and throughout Saudi Arabia, whenever Iraq makes any move or utters any statement they mass [troops] and hit Iraq? Second, we do know your Excellency's principled positions as well as that of Iraq or others, however, a new tune has been heard lately in a number of international media, and unfortunately has even penetrated into the headlines of some of Arab newspapers, saying that you have adopted these stands [supportive of Iraq] solely to end sanctions imposed on Libya. What are your Excellency's comments on the two points: ending the sanctions imposed on Iraq and on the reports saying that you take such positions against the Palestinians or others in an attempt to lift sanctions imposed on Libya. I am from the Egyptian opposition AL-SHA'B newspaper.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What do you expect me to reply? You are talking about existing facts.

[Correspondent] [Word indistinct] (?what is your opinion about the current situation)

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There are no opinions. Opinions are pointless. Opinions are when we tell them meet at a summit, or at a nadir they do not meet. The issue here is no longer of opinions, rather of expectations. I expect a revolution and I incite it, not only expect it. Day and night I call for a revolution to salvage the Arab homeland.

[Video News Internation correspondent Alfonso Velmarsh, in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic] Alfonso Velmarsh with Video News International, Philadelphia, United States. Yesterday you made some references to the march by one million black men, could please comment directly on it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What do you want me to say more about it? It was a successful march. And we are very happy about that. [Asking his interpreter] Ask him what else does he want me to say about it?

[Velmarsh] In particular you were referring to how in a demonstration the masses can get together and mobilize and demonstrate the power, and what I am trying to find is, is there any sort of revelance to what is going on here? Why bring it up in the first place? Were you impressed or displeased or what?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Actually, I announced a few months ago that we were going to make some moves inside America and that were going to have some weight on the [forthcoming] elections and that no-one should claim America as his own personal property. If we want to give back America to its rightful owners, we should give it back to the Red Indians; the white men, the black man and others have no claims over it.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

However, over there there are Arabs, Muslims, blacks, and Red Indians. We want to bring them all together and make them a force which can have influence in America by giving our [as heard] votes to the president whom we like: the president who can be friends with our peoples. Anyone who might harm us or forge an alliance with our enemy should be deprived of our votes. We should use the same method used by the Jews in America. And I do not think that this is a terrorist method; it is not a terrorist method. We are going to use the ballot box.

We started with the march of one million black men. Actually it was two millions; Farrakhan told we the other day when I contacted him that two millions took part in the march. God willing, we will work to make the Red Indians stage marches too. We are readying ourselves for the next American [presidential] elections. If we like Clinton, we will try to re-elect him. If we do not like him, we will choose someone else instead.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] they threaten the regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First of all, there is no regime called the regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. There is only people's authority. Since 1977 I have not held an official function in the state. It is the authority of the Libyan people and whoever wants to oppose the people let them do it. Who would like to oppose the people anyway? [passage omitted]

Today, I could leave Libya for any destination and nothing would ever happen, nothing would change because I do not give directives or issue decrees or sign anything. Whatever the people's congresses issue would be implemented by the people's committees. You get mixed up between people's congresses and people's committees and always talk about the system of people's committees. People's committees are administrative and executive committees, appointed by the [people's] congresses. The main bodies are the people's congresses. The Libyan people is divided into 300 congresses which include everyone over 18 years old, men and women. They have the power. It is they who issue resolutions, draft laws, formulate domestic and foreign policies. People's committees carry out the resolutions of the congresses. They are constantly changed by the congresses but the congresses do not change because they are the people, the population. This is the regime of the Libyan people not the regime of al-Qadhdhafi. What has al-Qadhdhafi has to do with it? If anybody talks like that I will personally sue him. What has this to do with me? How can you exchange one people with another? Well, would we exchange the Libyan people for another one? How? You could exchange a government, a party or a president with another. How could you exchange a people who rules with another. [passage omitted]

Those who fight Libya are soldiers by the side of America and Israel. Whose interest is served by fighting Libya now? It is to serve the interests of Zionism and imperialism. Who can claim to be a Muslim and fight Libya? What is left if they fight Libya. They end up on the side of the Americans and the Israelis. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Colonel, Sir: there is a call for the restoration of Arab relations with Iraq and for the lifting of the embargo on it. There are indications of Iraqi workforce coming to Libya, is this an indication...?

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] Brother, the question concerning Iraq is clear, very clear. The basis [of the problem] was Kuwait and we have finished with it. To chase up Iraq up till now has no connection to Kuwait. This is the will of the Israelis and the Americans who want to destroy the Arab countries one by one. Those who contributed to the destruction of Iraq and sat watching and laughing have in fact been laughed at. Tomorrow we will watch them while they are being destroyed. It is very clear that what is happening now in Iraq has no connection to Kuwait. It was an opportunity to destroy an Arab country where there were some arms and a few factories. Consequently, Libya with Iraq is complete [referring to Libya's relations with Iraq], because Iraq withdrew from and recognized Kuwait, and the Kuwait episode has ended. We forgot the Kuwait episode a long time ago; it has become a part of history. The issue now is one of colonialism; an opportunity for America to colonize the Arab homeland, and to find a pretext for doing so.

It is a crime for Arabs to watch Iraqi children dying. Would they like it for others to watch their children dying? They lack the courage to send medicines. We want them to let us get through the straits that are under Arab control. We will send food, medicines, and other items to Iraq. Libyan ships will sail through the Suez Canal and other channels, if they let us pass. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] does this mean that Libya has a development strategy for the next period to reduce [the effects of] the blockade?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It has an intention?

[Correspondent] It has the intention to implement a large-scale development plan, in view of its need for such a large number of workers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, we have extremely big projects. We have the different stages of the Great

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Man-made River, which will continue for five years, [costing] billions; we have a rail track to link Tunis with Egypt, costing billions; we have investments in gas and oil, petrochemical industries. Libya has huge projects requiring huge investments and therefore we need a large number of workers — however, the workers which we ask for.

[Diyab] What is your assessment of the Arab League's role regarding the Lockerbie crisis, and are you ready to meet the American president or any American official to resolve this crisis? Amirah Diyab, AL-ARAB AL-DUWALIYAH [newspaper] in London.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Arab League is downtrodden, the poor thing. It can't even collect the membership fees from the Arab countries. [Words indistinct] The Amman summit is stronger than the Arab League, the Casablanca summit is stronger than the Arab League. The influence of an Israeli envoy to the Arab countries is a thousand times stronger than the Arab League. It is to be pitied the Arab League; it is downtrodden. Where does its strength come from? From the downtrodden Arabs.

I was telling you about the Palestinians that are in [refugee] camps — who are waiting for that fate [as heard] — and from where they come from. There are 15 camps in Syria and 10 camps in Lebanon. In all these camps there about three quarters of a million [Palestinians]. But what is important is where did these camp dwellers come from? Where did these camps come from? In Syria, for example, the ones who were expelled from Jaffa — 20,000 — this means they will return from Syria to Jaffa. If their case had been resolved they would return to Jaffa. From Haifa, 70,000; from Babriyyah, Nazareth, Safad, Akka, and Bisan, 200,000, almost 200,000. These are the camps in the Syria, look from where their inhabitants come from — that is not the ones who come from Beersheva, Gaza, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron, Tulkarm, Janin, and Nabulus — but the ones from the areas occupied in 1948, they must return to those areas.

Lebanon, where there are these 10 camps ...[pauses]... 15 camps in Lebanon. The ones from Jaffa are not a lot; around 100 come from Jaffa. From Haifa there are about 1,000; from Akka about 1,000. They must return to those areas because the West Bank and Gaza have 14 camps for the 1948 refugees. They must return to the coast. They shouldn't stay in Gaza and in the West Bank because they are not their homes, or land. Their land is in Akka, Haifa, Jaffa, Tel Aviv. What do the Israelis and the Americans say about this: these are chicken coops! In Gaza there are eight camps; yes, they exist. Eight camps in Gaza whose inhabitants come from the coast. They must return from Gaza to the coast. In the West Bank, 13 camps for the refugees who they expelled in 1948 who escaped to the West Bank. They must return from the West Bank to the coast. Some 600,000 in these camps in the West Bank, must return from the West Bank to the coast. In Gaza, half a million came from the coast to Gaza and they are now in eight camps, they must return. Has anybody talked about these poor people in the United Nations, the White House, in Taba, in Madrid, in Oslo? Nobody talks about them, nobody knows. Not even we know these truths, does anybody talk about them? [Has anybody said] the camp dwellers, where is their land so that they can return to it?

Naturally there are 1.75 million [Palestinians] in the camps in Jordan and they should return. The return [of the Palestinians] is inevitable peacefully or through war; let the world choose. In three or six months from now the Sallum gate will witness 35,000 Palestinians standing by.

[Correspondent, in Italian followed by Arabic translation] Do you believe that armed Islamic fundamentalism is the first step toward the armed struggle? Do you believe that armed Islamic fundamentalism is a forward point for a political position or a pre-arranged program?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is an angry reaction and unorganized, it is mere explosions. It is a reaction to the intervention of the West in everything in the Islamic world; in elections, governments, economic, the judiciary and in every big and small issue. They have intruded in everything. Therefore the reaction began against them. The proof that it is a reaction to the West's interference is the fact that we are hearing about the explosions in Europe and America. This means there are people taking revenge against those who introduced the West to the Arab World the so-called oppressive governments and against the colonialist states which interfered in Islamic and Arab affairs. And if not what is the meaning of the explosions in France and America? It will move to each and every European country. It is a reaction to the West's interference and disregard of the culture of these nations; their beliefs and their future. It is an angry reaction yet unorganized.

As for the revolution which we are calling for, the national liberation revolution, it is confined to the Arab homeland and we have nothing to do with the sea, the ocean or Europe. We will not move our operations outside these boundaries. The revolution is to liberate the Arab homeland, to eradicate the colonialist influence and its armies and lackeys and these are inevitably coming. The behavior of the Arab rulers and the West's interference will hasten this revolution. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] I would like to return to the issue of the Arab work force. I salute you for saying that you are talking about strategies. One of Libya's strategies, as we understand, is Arab unity, or a call for Arab unity — as clearly indicated on the map on which the Arab homeland appears without boundaries. We are not all against the rationalization of Arab work force. However, you are expelling the Arab force from Libya for the reasons you mentioned yesterday — diseases, rationalization or to prevent illegal entry. Do you believe there is a contradiction ...[pauses]...that the expulsion will undermine the credibility of the call for Arab unity, as perceived by some ....

[Al-Qadhdhafi, interrupting] Yes, yes, you are right, it does undermine it. Yes, it does undermine it, but what can we do. This is reality. [laughter]

[Correspondent] We have a king who is the custodian of the two holy mosques [Saudi King Fahd] and a king who is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee [Moroccan King Hassan II], yet we have not heard about a new Arab stance regarding the U.S. Senate's decision on the future of Jerusalem, a year before negotiations on the future of Jerusalem were due to begin. Would you say that silence is a sign of consent?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course, Arabs...[pauses]...even reaction to the U.S. Senate decision...[pauses]...Arabs cannot oppose U.S. and Israeli action at present. These states have colonized the Arab homeland. The Arab homeland is now under U.S. and Israeli colonialism. Revolutionaries alone are opposing, trying and saying that they are fighting against and trying to resist colonialism. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent, in Italian followed by Arabic translation] I would like to ask a brief question, if you please. What is your opinion about Silvio Berlusconi?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What about Silvio Berlusconi? Is he [referring to the correspondent] coming or going? Why is he asking? He is a tasteless person. We do not know.

[Correspondent] Madrid, Oslo, Gaza, Jericho and then Barcelona; what comes next in your firm revolutionary view?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We have already said that it is about enabling the Israelis to realize their dream, not from the Euphrates to the Nile but from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf with the backing of America. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the alternative to withdrawing from future negotiations on Jerusalem, if the advice is taken?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am not talking to them, nor giving advice.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the future negotiations on Jerusalem, and if he did not listen to the advice what alternative has he got?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I would not talk to him nor offer him advice. They [the Israelis] have made 'Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] now chief of the Israeli police in the West Bank and the sector, in Rafah. No no, not Rafah but the places I have showed you. In Jericho. Part of Jericho and part of Gaza. The Jews made him and laughed at him. From the head of the Palestinian people, the leader of the Palestinian people and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization to chief of the gendarmerie of the Israelis in the occupied territories.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. 'Abu-Ammar — we would not receive him. If he comes the Libyan people are free to receive him, however, I personally have no connection with it. I would not prohibit him from coming to Libya even as a worker. [laughter of the audience and al-Qadhdhafi]

I would like to thank you very much and I beg you to forgive me for causing you all the trouble. I salute your bravery to have come in this condition of air embargo. The struggle continues.

Morocco

King Hassan's Health 'Rapidly Improving'

LD2810133795 Rabat MAP in English
1217 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct.28 (MAP) — The health condition of King Hassan II who was admitted to the New York hospital Wednesday [25 October] for treatment for an acute breathing infection, is rapidly improving, it was officially announced in Rabat.

A statement by the Moroccan Ministry of the Royal Household, Protocol and Chancellery said Friday the treatment dispensed to the sovereign by Professor James Smith and his team enabled a speedy recovery.

Several heads of state sent messages or phoned to wish the sovereign a speedy recovery. These included King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, U.S. President Bill Clinton, President of Cote d'Ivoire Konan Bedie, and President of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat.

King Hassan II got cold shortly after arrival in New York on October 18 to take part in the commemorating ceremonies of the 50th birthday of the United Nations organization.

Because of his condition, the sovereign could not deliver his speech before the UN and entrusted Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed with reading it on his behalf.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Promises Opposition Leader's Release

BR2710152295 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Oct 95 p 19

[Report signed "I.C.": "Ben Ali Promises Head of Government Tunisian Socialist Leader's Release"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday promised his Spanish guest, Felipe Gonzalez, that he will grant amnesty or pardon Mohamed Moada [name as published], leader of the Democratic Socialist Movement (MDS), detained under a warrant 9 October for alleged connivance with Libya, according to diplomatic sources.

Ben Ali received Gonzalez, who inquired about his fellow Socialist's fate. The latter made public on the very day of his detention a letter addressed to Ben Ali in which he criticized his failure to keep his promises of democratization. The Tunisian head of state explained to his Spanish interlocutor that he could not interfere while the legal proceedings were under way, but that he will be lenient when they are completed. According to Amnesty International, there are around 2,000 political prisoners in Tunisia.

Meeting With Opposition

Gonzalez broke a taboo in being the first foreign visitor to meet with the four parties of the legal opposition, which the rigged elections have given only scant parliamentary representation. However, he did so for just a few minutes, standing, during a cocktail party at the Spanish ambassador's residence, instead of receiving them separately, as planned, in the suite at his hotel in Tunis.

"I assume that there will have been pressures" from the Tunisian authorities, Socialist member of parliament Ezedin Chamari [name as published] stated, in order to explain the change of plans. Even so, the Socialist deputy gave thanks for "the solidarity which the Spanish prime minister has expressed." In connection with Moaada's imprisonment, Gonzalez forecast to them "that the matter will end in the best possible way," according to Chamari, who gave his Spanish interlocutor a pessimistic description of the regime's evolution: "A slide into authoritarianism and autocracy is taking place."

Gonzalez also revealed that Algerian head of state Liamine Zeroual told him in New York Monday that legislative and municipal elections will be held in his country following the 16 November presidential election. The conversation with Zeroual, the head of government said, "shows his desire for all Algeria's representative political forces to take part in legislative and municipal elections."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait

Government Expresses 'Regret' on U.S. Embassy Move

LD2910150695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1353 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Oct (KUNA) — The State of Kuwait today expressed its deep regret at the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

This was stated during a meeting of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers held here under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, acting chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and planning minister, stated: "The decision hurt the feelings of the Islamic nation in view of Jerusalem's religious, cultural, and humanitarian position which is of interest to all the divine religions."

Al-Dakhil stressed: "The decision, which is in breach of the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning Jerusalem, could lead to the hindering of the efforts aimed at continuing the peace process in the Middle East." [passage omitted]

Iraqi Air Force Captain Questioned on Asylum Bid

NC2810134895 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 28 (AFP)— The Kuwaiti authorities were still questioning an Iraqi air force officer on Saturday [28 October], three days after he fled across the border asking for political asylum, the interior ministry said.

"The investigation is continuing into the officer who took refuge in Kuwait with his wife and daughter," said 'Adil Ibrahim, the ministry's public relations director, who added that the defector was an airforce captain.

Ibrahim refused to comment on press reports in Kuwait that said the government might reject the officer's request for asylum.

Kuwait does not usually give political asylum to the growing number of Iraqis crossing into its territory, preferring that international organizations hand them over to a third country, officials said.

Kuwait's Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah told a Saudi newspaper on Saturday that giving asylum to Iraqi defectors was a "delicate and very dangerous question."

Shaykh Sa'ud, cited by the Saudi daily newspaper AL-YAWM, urged the Iraqi opposition to overthrow President Saddam Husayn and install a government capable of making peace with neighbouring countries.

He said: "I hope that the Iraqi opposition, abroad and in Iraq, can change the deplorable situation in the country and install a government likely to respect its people and neighbours."

But he criticized the Iraqi opposition for its failure to unite to overthrow Saddam.

Asked if Kuwait would support the Iraqi opposition, he said his country would "spare no effort to support attempts to end the ordeal which the Iraqi people have endured under the yoke of its regime."

But he told the paper: "We ask the opposition to adopt a clear policy. It has different and sometimes contradictory policy ideas which weaken it."

Qatar

Amir: Selling Gas to Israel Linked to Peace Process

JN2810095795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani said his country's selling gas to Israel is conditional on the completion of the peace process in the Middle East. He said his country pins large hopes on gas projects and invests huge sums of money in this respect.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Holds News Conference in Washington

LD2710161095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 95

[News conference by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, with unidentified correspondents in Washington on 26 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Your Highness, you have met with His Excellency Bill Clinton. What did you discuss during the meeting? Are there new agreements concluded between the two countries, Saudi Arabia and the United States?

[Sultan] First, I conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings and appreciation of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

We have signed a civil aviation agreement on new modern aircraft equipment with two giant companies. They

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

are Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. This agreement is in the interests of Saudi airlines because we are moving toward privatization of our national airlines, to make it a private company that would undertake all its responsibilities and stand on a firm footing alongside all the world companies. [passage omitted]

We are interested in how the U.S. economy functions and works with Saudi participation. [sentence as heard]

[Correspondent] Your Highness, what are the other issues you have discussed with the President?

[Sultan] As you know I cannot talk about everything I have discussed [with the president], but I confirm that the position of his excellency the president toward our Arab and Islamic issues was noble.

[Correspondent] When will the first of the aircraft arrive [in Saudi Arabia]?

[Sultan] Probably after 18 months, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, have you discussed the Bosnian issue?

[Sultan] We have discussed the issues of Jerusalem and Bosnia. His excellency's positions on both issues were honorable.

[Correspondent] What about Iraq, your highness?

[Sultan] Iraq is a wound we would rather not talk about.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] (?do you have the capabilities) to manufacture aircraft spare parts?

[Sultan] This is left to the economic balance.

[Correspondent] How many aircraft, did Saudi Arabia purchase?

[Sultan] Sixty-one aircraft.

[Correspondent, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Did you discuss the money you have pledged for the reconstruction of Bosnia if there is peace in the country?

[Sultan] When security prevails in the region the kingdom will not hesitate to support the reconstruction of Bosnia- Herzegovina.

[Correspondent, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Did the president ask you for any specific amount or has any amount been discussed?

[Sultan] This issue was not discussed. Thank you.

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Visits

Arrives in Riyadh

LD2710225595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 27 Oct (SPA) — Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and his accompanying delegation arrived in Riyadh tonight.

He was received at King Khalid International Airport by Minister of State Madani 'Alaqi, a representative of the royal protocol ministry, and Tahir Beresdric, the Bosnian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Meets With Crown Prince

LD2810124495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prince Abdullah Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, HRH first deputy prime minister, crown prince and commander of the National Guard received Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina and his accompanying delegation in his office at the royal court in Yamamah Palace today.

Silajdizc conveyed to HRH the Crown Prince the greetings and gratitude of the Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Herzegovina to his brother Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, God safeguard him. He also thanked the government and people of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia for the support Bosnia received which had great impact on the successes achieved by the Muslim people. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD2810221995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2055 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Oct (SPA) — The Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Haris Silajdzic praised the aid given to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud. This was expressed at a news conference held in the Riyadh Conference Hall this afternoon. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that he had discussed with HRH Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard, and with HRH Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh Region, during his meetings with them today the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the talks currently being held in Dayton, Ohio.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He also said: I expressed my gratitude for the continuous support of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, which has remained uninterrupted for the past four years and we are now approaching the most important phase of the war — the final talks.

He pointed out that the aim of his visit to the kingdom was to brief Saudi officials on the current situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina, and the Bosnian Government's point of view on the talks in Dayton, Ohio. [passage omitted]

Concerning the sides participating in the reconstruction, Silajdzic said there would be the World Bank, the EU, the Group of 24, and Japan.

On the obstacles which prevented the establishment of the Bosnian-Croat federation, Silajdzic pointed out that the political administration in some Croat quarters were the most serious obstacles to the building of the federation.

On the U.S. orientation in the negotiations, and whether it was meant for election purposes, his excellency pointed out that the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina was an international issue and its effects reflected on internal policy everywhere.

On the lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Silajdzic said that there was a radical change in French policy after President Chirac assumed power where French forces participated in the rapid intervention force in the city of Sarajevo, in addition to their participation in the air strikes. He expressed his hope that British policy would also change on this sphere.

Concerning the conditions by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government for entering the Ohio negotiations, Silajdzic pointed out that the minimum level was Bosnia's sovereignty, the unity of its territories, and the creation of government central institutions which guaranteed Bosnia-Herzegovina's territorial unity and its sovereignty. He pointed out that these talks will start at the end of this month, 31 October.

Departs Jeddah

LD2910102395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0943 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 29 Oct (SPA) — Haris Silajdzic, prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, left Jeddah today after a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by Dr. Madani 'Alaqi, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Muhammad Uthman Nazir, head of royal protocol in Jeddah; and Tahir Beresdric, ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the kingdom.

King Orders Compensation for Mosque Bombing Victims

LD2610203395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, the interior minister, has made the following statement:

After learning about the death while on duty of one of the members of the security forces during the attempt to arrest the criminal 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Sa'd al-'Amri, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered that he should be promoted to the rank that followed his current one and that his full salary be paid to his family. He also ordered that 100,000 riyals be paid to his family. He delegated the amir of the 'Asir region to convey his condolences and those of the crown Prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard [Prince 'Abdallah] and the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general [Prince Sultan] to the deceased's family.

The custodian of the two holy mosques has also ordered that 100,000 riyals be paid to every family that lost one of its members at the mosque during the incident perpetrated by the criminal who had become bereft of his religion and patriotism.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saddam Addresses 38th Cabinet Session

JN2910090795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 28 OCT 95

[Address by President Saddam Husayn at a Cabinet meeting in Baghdad on 28 October, discussing "a report submitted by a ministerial committee formed upon the instructions of the leader president to study the reformation of ministerial councils" — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Due to the importance of this topic, the general trend is to expand the base of participation, not with the aim of obstructing the work of the ministry, but to expand participation and, consequently, guarantee the best and most accurate of opinions in discussing and implementing the proposed plans. At this stage, for instance, there is the National Assembly, which is composed of the people's representatives who were elected through free, secret, and direct elections. This assembly enacts laws according to a clear procedure. It holds the prime minister accountable for his actions—and such jurisdictions were added later. The assembly also holds the ministers responsible for their actions, and has a say in issues referred to it by the presidency.

Similarly, we have a body with a legislative power — namely, the Revolution Command Council [RCC], which practically shares the powers of the president of the republic, whether in making decisions, which have the force of law, or decisions of executive nature. The RCC also shares the National Assembly's jurisdictions in legislating laws.

Why then was the RCC established, even though, according to the Iraqi system of government since the inception of the revolution, the president of the republic and the cabinet have been exercising their well-known powers? Occasionally, the president of the republic may chair the cabinet, which may be headed by someone else at other times. The existence of the RCC stems from the same consideration — namely, to expand the base of participation in order to secure a higher degree of accuracy in decisionmaking, and not to impede the role of the president of the republic in exercising his constitutional powers in the Iraqi state.

Since the inception of the revolution, we have found that such a formula is quite useful. However, some may say the RCC should be canceled. It may sound strange or incomprehensible that the president of the republic still believes in the importance of maintaining the RCC in spite of all shura [consultation] practices that conform with our concept and our heritage, or with what is termed in modern political terminology as democracy—a term borrowed from the West.

For example, why do we support the call for expanding the framework of participation while, at the same time, we still believe — and I am speaking about myself — in the importance of the presence of the RCC? The reason is that our march, in terms of its timing, circumstances, and tasks, cannot be run by the president of the republic alone. There should a broader participation with him in making basic decisions and developing general policies, as well as the policies related to social, economic, legal, and constitutional life of the people and state.

If our state were an ordinary one, then it would have sought a relative improvement of the situation and would have been sufficient to have a president and other ordinary councils. This is applied elsewhere in the world. But, is the situation here ordinary? We discussed party activities and affairs with the senior party cadres. Will we benefit from the idea of relative development in light of the criteria applied in the world? Will this help Iraq achieve the principles of the July revolution in Iraq? I do not believe so. In light of the practical experiment in war and peace I did not believe in the importance of canceling the RCC. This idea might be raised every now and then. However, I have not reached a conviction to cancel the RCC. This is because the mission with which Iraq is entrusted, in accordance with the principles for which it works, needs more than an ordinary president.

Let us return to the subject of ministries' councils. Why were the ministries' councils abolished although they were set up according to a law? I would like to remind you that when the ministries' councils were abolished, our circumstances were different than they are now. We were not besieged then. When the state institutions were proceeding normally, there were no chances of sabotage with respect to public funds. The basic reason for the abolishment was to expedite the plans of implementation and not to obstruct the central effort to expedite work and ministries' objectives in accordance with the central plans. What was the objective of abolishing the councils? The objective was to give the directors of factories, presidents of companies, and directors general in the state the chance to enjoy all their legal powers under the supervision of their respective minister. But what happened was that the ministries' councils were abolished and ministers seized the powers of those working under them. Thus, ministers began to act not only according to their legal powers, but also according to the powers of all directors general and presidents of companies affiliated with them. This is what has happened. The institutions' administrative councils and then the institutions themselves were canceled so that their powers would go to the directors general. Instead of those powers practically going to the directors general, they were held by ministries'

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

centers. Therefore, even the implementation of the abolishment did not take place in a balanced manner nor in accordance with the abolishment law. Rather, the process took place depending on circumstances and sometimes in contravention with the spirit of the pertinent law. Thus, councils were abolished, but at the same time the powers of institutions affiliated with ministers were seized.

Let us go back now to the idea of ministries' councils, which is based on two basic principles. The first principle entails the mode of relative steadiness which is based on the principle of expanding the basis of participation, something which falls within the framework of our course and principles. The second principle is not steady and is changing due to circumstances, because the fact is that the ministries' councils in these countries are limited and not like ours. The private sector in these countries runs its own affairs through these councils, in addition to some central interests of the state which are followed by these ministries.

The basis of public property exists in the Iraqi state. Imagine this number of ministers who are running property estimated at hundreds of millions [currency not specified]. Can a minister, under these circumstances and in accordance with previous systems, run such property, investment, development, and state funds successfully without expanding the basis of participation in his ministries?

Circumstances and experience say no. Therefore, we have to find a formula, and this is the substance of our discussion. What is this formula? Is it giving the cabinet powers that will hamper the ministers' powers and leading role in his ministry, or, is it another kind of formula? To begin with, we must take some concepts into consideration. I believe that whoever has the power to make decisions must shoulder the consequences of his decisions. It is impermissible to give certain powers to people and yet not expect them to shoulder the consequences of their decisions. Therefore, bringing a person from outside the ministry and giving him powers to make decisions will harm the ministry. We should count more on his patriotism and ability to assess matters objectively. But if a certain person cannot assess matters objectively, then this will lead us to confusion.

I believe that we need to decide on a board, a council, a ministry council as you call it, or any other name. I believe that we should give it a name so the citizen will not confuse the council of ministers with a ministry council. I suggest calling it an advisory board [hay'at shura], or giving it any other appropriate name, so there will be no confusion and the powers of this board, or council, will not encumber the minister's leading role. At the same time, the minister's attendance of a board or a council meeting will be essentially a moral obligation rather than for the purpose of effective participation. The minister should take the advice of the board or council seriously.

Let us now go back to our Arab-Islamic heritage and see how the consultation system [shura] worked and what was meant by it. Was the shura a categorical decision or simply advice which the leader concerned was under moral obligation not to overlook, because if he did it would be at the expense of his subsequent responsibility before the people and himself, and above all before his God?

In the past, the shura council would meet and some of its members would cite a Koranic verse or a prophet tradition that was applicable to the subject under discussion. If the text did not apply, the council ruling was based on a certain instance. Others would cite practices and sayings by the prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, and the shura council would discuss the subject on this basis and come out with a ruling which would help in the decisionmaking.

What do we have? We have major sources of authority on which to base a ruling. We have the law after the constitution. We have central government guidelines and directives, central government plans, and ministry plans. I believe that it is wrong to say that an advisory council, shura council, advisory board, or any other formula, should be responsible for proposing ministry plans. The minister, who cannot lead a board and convince its members about what is right or wrong through his own ideas, is not a capable minister. Why cannot he convince people who are mainly employees of his ministry? There might be one or two outsides, but these only take part in the discussion and giving an opinion, but not in the actual decision making. Theirs is a moral rather than a practical role.

Some of them are occasionally appointed by the head of the state or the RCC to take part in the decisionmaking. I do not support the idea of sending party representatives to these councils in this capacity. If some party members are an authority on a certain subject and the RCC or the head of state feels that they should attend these councils and take part in the decisionmaking, it should be made clear that they are not there in a party capacity. So we should refer to them in their personal capacity and say, for instance, that so and so, who is now in the Strugglers Organization, has previously served as governor for a long period, that he was not a successful administer but that he is in a position to give an opinion when attending the Interior Ministry board, for instance.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

When the subject is brought up for discussion before the members of the specialized committees in the National Assembly, and in order to enable the committee members to participate effectively and positively in the discussion of any ministry affair and to be fully informed on any government activity, the members of such a ministry council will also take part in the discussion but not in the decision making. Thus, they will have benefited the specialized committees by acquainting them with government activity.

When the National Assembly sees any fault and decides to summon the minister to testify under established constitutional procedures, there will at least be someone in the specialized committee who will be familiar with ministry affairs. Thus, when assembly members make any mistake in their debate, he will be able to stand up and say: No, I have attended the ministry meeting and what you are saying is absolute theory. The real thing, which I have seen, is this, that, and the other.

Why is that? In the executive councils of the West, most if not all of those present represent private interests. One may be the president of a company, the second the president of an oversees company, the third the ex-board chairman of an airline, and the fourth an ex-ambassador in France or the United States. Thus, when they submit any ideas, they tend to be practical, since they are experts in their fields.

In our society, however, the qualifications of an assembly member or minister are well known, since economic, social, and political development in our country has not reached the level where it can produce people of such caliber. A minister may be summoned, but his testimony will be mainly theoretical. And when some people deviate from the main subject, there is no one in the assembly with enough experience to note this deviation and point out what is right or wrong.

Therefore, it may be beneficial for persons with expertise to attend ministry council meetings without any quarter encroaching on the powers and functions of the other. On the contrary, they should all familiarize with their work, management, difficulties, and problems and devise methods of helping, judging, and developing each other.

I believe that it is not wrong to give these councils the authority of subsequent control. The minister should have the full powers to approve and head this committee, board, or council. He should also have the powers to reject its recommendations. And when it comes to the knowledge of the cabinet that a certain minister has not abided by the recommendations of the committee or board, the questioning will be on a clear ground. The cabinet can say: O minister of trade, O minister of foreign affairs, your brothers and comrades and those attending have made recommendations. We did not reject recommendation No. 4 or 5, so why did you not follow those recommendations?

Here, the accountability is clear. The minister would reply: I did not follow the recommendations for such and such a reason.

But, how does accountability occur at present? It is either based on impressions or accumulation of errors. It is not until the situation reaches a critical or explosive point that a certain center realizes that a minister, God forbid, has exceeded his limits, violated the law, ignored central government directives, or failed to abide by the plans, including the plans which have been proposed to his ministry and approved by law. It is then that everything becomes obvious.

Therefore, the general idea is to find councils with this capacity. Now, on what will the subsequent control be? It will be on everything which is illegal and conflicts with the plans, or on the issuance of illegal orders. Thus, any citizen can say that such and such a minister or under secretary has violated the law. When he is asked how he has violated the law, he can say that he has violated it in such and such a way.

So, it is a formula which fits our circumstances and established concepts. Some time after the removal of the blockade, we may be able to revise this formula, and I will not say cancel it. We will be able to revise it along with its powers. But, do we need this formula? Of course, when we thought of and advocated this formula, it was not due to any previous doubt in the minister? No. The minister enjoys our confidence until the opposite is proven. But, do we not want to protect the minister before he commits an error? I believe that we do not differ that we want to protect the minister before the errors accumulate. We also want him to be more effective and precise in the decisions he makes.

This is my comment on the subject before you begin the discussion. This, I believe, is how we should tackle the idea. I also have a quick comment to make. Our general aspiration, which must take into consideration the time factor as well as other factors, including the maturity of personality, the surrounding circumstances, etc. should always be to expand the base of participation, and therefore the base of rule. The countries of the Third World are under the impression that the only best democracy formula for them is that which is applied in the Old World. What is most important is political pluralism. If there is no pluralism, it will not be possible to apply democracy as it should be.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

All the general concern which is shown in the media and public intellectual debate is essentially geared toward the minority so that the concern for the majority will come as a result of the concern for the minority.

By this minority, we mean the political parties — including our party — whether they have a large or small number of members in proportion to the population. The party consists only of a small number of people. However, when we speak about our general political and intellectual activities — including the current debate — we want to attach greater importance to the majority who can enhance the capabilities of the leading minority. When we enhance the capabilities of the leading minority and pay special attention to it, this does not preclude attention to the majority. The purpose here is to enable the leading minority to serve the majority. When a leading minority leads, it does this in a very successful manner. Therefore, we should not only wait for the parties to have an opportunity to play an active role and for the right circumstances for them to give their unbiased opinions on major issues. We should also not neglect the role of the people in governance.

If we want the people to play a more active role in decisionmaking, it is not enough to do this through general discussions. We must specify the means to do so through a collective will before arriving at the ideal decision. For example, those who work at the ministries are civil servants. At the same time, they are Iraqi citizens. Although none of you has said this, let me just say the following to preclude any such idea: We should not have doubts in advance or preconceptions about the possibility of failure, unless this is meant as a precautionary measure. This way, we will not experience failure and we will be devising a formula to achieve a great, legitimate objective; namely, to give more opportunities to the educated will of the people to contribute to decisionmaking.

Therefore, it is not necessary — as we have observed — to wait for the right circumstances and the availability of resources for the political parties to give an unbiased opinion when they have a chance to do so, and this will happen. In order for us to ensure active participation based on the principle of expanding the base of action and governance, we should pay more attention to all the activities of workers, who work according to laws and regulations, to express the meaning of democracy in modern thought. We should also pay attention to peasants, women, students, and youth. We should pay attention to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the parties that make up the Front [National Patriotic and Progressive Front]. By paying attention to the parties of the Front, we mean giving them a chance to develop until new parties emerge. Our care for these parties is not meant to replace them, but we only want to facilitate their mission to enable them to assume their role efficiently and develop themselves on this basis.

Care for the Arab Socialist Ba'th party — since it is the leader of the revolution and the march — is a top priority. The Party's domestic life, behavior, and links with the people should all be based on positive concepts. This means we should not wait for the formation of parties to practice democracy within the Ba'th Party or the state institutions. Rather, we should follow all directions and not finish things hastily. At the same time, however, we should not leave things unfinished.

Therefore, I do not see any serious contradiction in constitutional jurisprudence between the fact that a minister should be responsible to the president of the republic on the one hand, and the fact that the National Assembly should summon this minister for accountability regardless of the view of others in the world toward this formula of action, on the other.

When such a contradiction does not exist in constitutional concepts, it is better not to have any contradiction in establishing a commission which can be given some powers through a decision that fulfills the constitutional terms and meets the legal technical requirements.

Among the matters which occur to my mind and which do not conflict with one another is the fact that such a commission, committee, opinion commission, shura [consultations] commission, or any other name you may choose for it, should enjoy the powers of immediately stopping any illegal or unconstitutional action and asking the minister to remove its effects, whether it was done by a director general, by an ordinary employee in the ministry, or by the minister himself. What is wrong with that?

If a minister makes a mistake for any reason after having obtained incomplete or immature advice, or because he made a personal judgment which did not consider the need to legally provide technical and objective specifications for his move, then why would the commission not tell him: Your decision is illegal? Why would not this commission be entitled to stop his decision?

The current law in France is not the same one enacted 500 years ago. Likewise, law in any country is not the same as that enacted in the time of (Ashnunah) [not further identified] or Hammurabi. Law is thus the son of life. At the same time, law is the leader of life; in other words, law leads the general control of people's conduct and of specifying their duties and rights and their compliance with law.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Therefore, when a law that has gone through its legislative constitutional aspects is issued, it will consequently specify the related responsibilities and powers on a sound basis.

I believe that this commission needs some powers in the form of a decision, and within a framework that can be deduced from the discussions held. At the same time, this commission will authorize the submission of recommendations in a nominal framework.

We should not take very big steps in a way that will make us go back on them later. We, however, should not continue to fear taking a step after finalizing the terms of constitutional and serious debate in the cabinet.

Since this issue is vital, we will present it to the RCC and the Ba'th Party Command after your discussions are completed and after you make a decision at the cabinet. Perhaps this will be presented to the National Assembly. This is so because if circumstances do not put pressure, and if times are not necessarily difficult, a draft law should undergo expanded discussions which will enrich it before it is issued.

Instead of asking a comrade member of the Ba'th Party Command: How did this happen, and what is going on?, it is better for him to read and understand law and even discuss it in order to comprehend it. Consequently, he will be the reference for any successive clarifications for anyone who requests such clarifications in his governorate or as part of his party responsibilities. This also applies to the National Assembly and the RCC. As for now, we are not in a dire need to reduce this period of time.

The cabinet also discussed the other topic on its agenda; namely, the 1995-96 plan to market the rice crop and the proposed measures and controls in this plan, especially against the farmers who do not fulfill their marketing commitments to the state, who conceal the grain crop, and who do not hand the crop to the Ministry of Trade for distribution to the people through ration cards.

Discussing this issue, the leader president, may God preserve him, said: Our great Islamic heritage has a legal ruling on this issue. Prophet Muhammad, May God's peace be upon him, said that the one who monopolizes food for 40 nights will not be loved by God. So, what about the one who conceals food not only for 40 days and who conceals it altogether and does not hand it, despite the fact that our fund is the most honest one in the state of Iraq? This fund enjoys all great and honorable meanings and even exceeds the state's treasury.

The state's treasury may expend money here and there or on an activity which is subjected to some viewpoints or objection. However, youths distribute these grains to people through ration cards, according to their needs.

Hence, the state does not have any commitment toward this type of negligent peasant. In other words, they cannot demand that the state to grant them any right in this regard. The state, however, can behave the way it wishes, so it may choose to give or not to give. This matter is up to the state's educational and economic policy, because these peasants have not fulfilled their obligations.

Law is applied against these peasants, because they have not fulfilled their obligations. These peasants are negligent. This is the same as with the one who runs a red traffic light. He will be fined. He who hits a person on the street will be punished. Perhaps, the hitting incident is easier, because it may not be intentional, whereas the conduct of noncommitted peasants implied prior intention to do harm to the whole Iraqi community, and not only to one person.

Therefore, the state is not committed to such farmers unless it decides otherwise. Regarding other farmers, who have met their obligations, we can say that the state will be committed toward them because it has promised them to do so and told them: Hand over your harvest and we will guarantee the seeds for you. This has taken place indeed.

But the negligent ones will be punished by the law, and they will be obliged to pay double the amount of loss in the harvest that was supposed to be delivered. Therefore, what is now considered is the state's policy and not the right of the farmer of that kind. Is it a policy of the state to supply them with seeds? The state's policy is to make them and others understand that the state can do a legitimate harm to negligent, that is, to apply law to them. The plan the minister of agriculture has presented says that what counts is the surplus in seeds. In light of this, the leadership and the RCC have decided to increase the citizen's food ration by 1 kg, that is, to increase the quantity from 6 to 7 kg.

Therefore, any surplus in this grain will help us boost our strategic stock. This is more important than bearing the burden of helping the negligent increase his money—an increase which may encourage him to commit further negligence. Let such a negligent farmer go to the market and buy the bushel at any amount of money in order to be disciplined by the state and not to repeat his negligence. In other words, he should avoid such negligence because he must know that we pay the price of that negligence, and are sometimes obliged to behave in a harmful way.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Those who enforce the law also are harmed severely. Similarly, people who neglect their duties toward the state in collecting the harvest also harm the state and the people. Are we required to tolerate such people, should their negative behavior reflect on the state's behavior toward them, or should the state not deal with them at least as we deal with people who meet their obligations in a sound way?

His excellency added: When that small group of people shrouds its illegitimate stand with vagueness, it can move and win the sympathy of a circle that is larger than itself. If matters are explained, that circle will not have sympathy for that group and will even isolate it. Such people will pass through all your departments and every address, and if these addresses cannot understand reality, they will start talking and saying how such and such can take place. This is impossible. Therefore, this matter should be clarified in the form of written instructions to the Ministry of Culture and Information, which will explain the subject over the television. Consequently, the cabinet's decision may mean a bias toward some people, who have done severe harm to the entire Iraqi people because any action to deprive the Iraqi people of their bread is, by God, a severe harm.

Some concepts are linked to their national and non-national circumstances and to good and bad behavior. That is, no one who is living outside Iraq and is negative in his relationship with his besieged people, for example, can say he is a national, at least not like any other person in Iraq, even the handicapped person who does nothing at all but bears the burden of the blockade. Such a crippled person is more patriotic than the person under this condition. How can a person deprive the blockade-stricken Iraqi individual of his bread, although he is not compelled to do that because he and his children are not dying of hunger?

Following the full discussion, the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to sell seeds at the commercial price to everyone who markets less than 100 percent or up to 75 percent of the quantity that is required from him but after making him pay the fine stipulated in Paragraph 3 of RCC Decree No. 40 issued on 19 April 1995.

Saddam Addresses Officials on Referendum

JN2810070095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Statements by President Saddam Husayn during a meeting with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party branch commands, popular unions, and professional associations in Baghdad on 25 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] May God greet the men and women comrades. It is a pleasure to see you. Having seen your rich experience with your great people on the Great March Day [break in transmission] we called it the Great March Day. It is my belief that this is the proper way of characterizing the Iraqis' position under their party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [applause] This is the first time such an event has taken place in the context of the framework and bases used for the referendum. I basically sought to see you and to salute, through you, the party, popular organizations, unions, professional associations, all the women comrades and men comrades, and also the great Iraqi people. [applause]

At the same time, I sought to pose a specific question to you in the form of a dialogue. The question is the following: What are the lessons you have learned from this experience in terms of your party work and your relationship with the people or any other aspect of life. At the first meeting since the referendum was held this week by the Iraq Command and the Revolution Command Council, we asked ourselves this question and answered it. The meeting was entirely devoted to answering this question. What are the lessons that could be learned from the experience of the Great March Day? This was prompted by the fact that this was a great battle. It was such a battle. The timing of the battle was determined by the party's wishes. The idea was contemplated almost three years ago. Nonetheless, and based on the spirit of collective work, according to which we were raised in the party, when the idea was broached with the comrades three years ago, the majority did not support it. Hence, we postponed deliberations on the issue until we found the best time to hold the referendum. During a meeting, the command approved the idea, and so the referendum was held. Let us learn from the comrades about the lessons they have learned from this great battle, in which they triumphed while leading their people in one of the most important showdowns in the history of Iraqi struggle and jihad. The first to speak should be the secretaries of the branch commands and heads of unions and associations. Yes, comrade 'Adnan. [passage omitted]

Many lessons are learned from any great stand adopted by the Iraqi people by themselves through their patriotism, nationalism, humanity, and role in building and in confronting the enemies. Our great people adopted great stands, through which they repeated the most shining chapters in history, thereby reiterating their role, capabilities, potentials, and deep strength in terms of building and confronting the enemies, who targeted the Iraqis' construction in al-Qadisiyah and in the Mother of Battles. We cannot say that what our people have achieved so far, through their sacrifices and potentials, is the end in terms of expressing their genuineness.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

So far, the Great March Day [yawm al-zahf al-kabir] [reference to referendum day] has been considered the crown of the Mother of Battles. [applause] The fighting in the Mother of Battles lasted one and a half months in its first chapter. In the renewed aggression, the fighting lasted 23 days, although the media did not cover it for intentional reasons. [Words indistinct] In al-Qadisiyah, the fighting lasted eight months. And our people. suffered. However, in the Great March Day [words indistinct]. The fighting continued for approximately 15 years. [Words indistinct] Such a fighting could happen although it is a unique incident. If we simplify this case, we can say for sure 33 states and 28 armies. In the simplest scenario [words indistinct] in one of the streets of Rome, Baghdad, Paris, [words indistinct], Beijing [words indistinct] fight 28 armies [words indistinct] It is a war, the likes of this battle never before occurred in history, and, I believe, will never take place in the future.

Despite this, not all people, particularly in the West, are aware of this. [Words indistinct] Their media are misleading. They do not know that what is meant by the sanctions is everything, including an aspirin tablet and a morsel of bread. [Words indistinct] to say yes or no with all freedom. The Iraqi people came to say "yes" and "no." They came to say "yes" and "no" separately. "Yes" to God, [words indistinct] all the march, and "yes" they will choose their representative, and "no" to all kinds of enemies." [applause]

Obviously, some of you are feeling cold, so I will be brief [laughter and applause]. For a long time, we have been saying that relative growth according to rates that are considered good and positive in the West is useless for Iraq and the Arab nation. If Switzerland achieves a growth rate of 2 or 3 percent in its economy, social life, culture, and in life and capabilities in general, that is considered an addition to what it has already achieved over hundreds of years of development. But if Iraq achieves a growth of 4 or 5 percent in social and cultural life and capabilities, then this will keep Iraq and the Arab nation underdeveloped. Consequently, they will not be able to play the role they hope to play or to use their capabilities for their own good and for the benefit of humanity in general. It seems that this analysis has been in the minds of the Iraqis during the referendum.

Through their delicate, effective, and profound national sense, the Iraqis have decided that any rate of growth less than 100 percent is useless [applause]. In this simple way, I interpret our people's stand. When the Iraqis went to cast their ballots they did not intend to graduate a president for the republic. Graduating a president from an institute following the style of Western institutes is possible at a rate of 51 percent, 55 percent, 60 percent, or 65 percent. However, in their deep national sense, they were aware that they were not going to attend a ceremony on the graduation of a president of the republic. They were also aware that they were not going to play a role in the graduation of a president of the republic from an institute similar to the institutes established, in one way or another, for the graduation of presidents of republics, or kings, sometimes. They were aware that they were about to make a historic decision; namely, to choose their path. Will they choose the road of retreat and surrender their will to foreigners, or the road that will express their genuineness and patriotism, as they want and as they decided in all stages of struggle and jihad for which they shed seas of blood? Their decision was to continue construction. They have always proved extraordinary capabilities compared to the capabilities of the Third World countries in this age.

Therefore, in all of their positions, our people are, in fact, wondrous people [applause] because they do not follow any of the traditional standards, none at all. According to the traditional standards, the Iraqi people should be different from what they are now. According to all the prevailing standards in most — because there may be one or two cases which we do not want to do them injustice — parts of the planet earth, such a meeting could not [words indistinct] strugglers from the senior cadre and union and association representatives from the party and the people should sit in such a meeting with Saddam Husayn after an aggression [applause] launched by the majority of the world against us. Even those who kept silent, or are keeping silent over injustice, are as sinful as those who were involved in the aggression, now and before.

So, is this not a wonder? Yes, we need wonders to remind humanity [Saddam Husayn interrupted by applause and chants]. We need, we — that is, the iraqi people — need miracles to remind all mankind of the great facts regarding the Arab nation and great Iraq, [applause], the nation's mind, conscience, [applause] and sword [applause]. Nowadays, great Iraq is the Arab nation's mind, conscience, sword, and potential [applause]. I am not saying this to look down upon anyone, or to vie in boasting with anyone. God forbid. This has never crossed our mind. But there is a historic and actual need for our nation and people to deliver a message to say that they have decided to be, and that the others must respect this decision and this will. [applause].

It was not possible [words indistinct] for this message to be delivered [word indistinct] Iraq [words indistinct]. I am fully convinced [words indistinct] any part [words indistinct] because it reflects the true nature of this people [passage indistinct] to revive in the great Iraqi

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

people all [words indistinct] Assyria, Babylon, and Sumer from that time to this day of ours, not in the shape of a secluded Iraq, but in the shape of the sincere nationalistic Iraq, which is capable and effective, and which is the base and support for its Arab nation. In the meanings it offers, Iraq also provides support for humanity whenever this humanity needs someone to remind it of the genuine values so that it can live a free and dignified life.

These are the wondrous people, but at the same time, they are the people of facts, the people of history, the people of sublime values, high banners, and soaring constructions. They are the people of lances, spears, and swords. [applause]

After this introduction, what are the lessons that we learn from this wondrous stand? As we have said, there are many lessons but the most important thing that we must concentrate on is related to a question which you have directed at the people; namely, how you can lead the people in a correct and successful manner to reach aims which you have explained to them or a single aim which you have presented to your people. By this question you imparted reassurance in people's minds about their future because the people felt your profound faith and earnestness on your path toward this aim. The people felt that you believed in the aim and that you are explaining this aim for them, introducing reassurance into their hearts, that you are part of them and that they are part of you, and you ask them, directly or indirectly: How can we lead you successfully and correctly to realize the aim or the aims we have talked to you about? Then the problem was no longer there. The aim was clear. The aim is legitimate, and clear; the basic means are clear; and the scope for personal judgment is wide, and there is no question mark on this judgment. The dialogue between you and your people is certain and deep. Therefore, the leadership was affected in the best and most beautiful manner.

If you agree on this then you should stick to it. [applause] You should not be ashamed to tell your people: We want to carry out this idea? What do you think? We would like to lead you, please tell us what is wrong and what is right in the way we are leading you? [applause] We want to mobilize [word indistinct] please tell us how to mobilize. [applause] O our people in villages, subdistricts, and districts, in the governorates, in the streets, we want to mobilize you — on what? On this issue, we propose such and such methods, what do you think? There nothing to be ashamed of. We tell our people that we want to lead them but to ask them to help us do this.

This is the first time this has been done on such a large scale. Let us put a ballot box there. What do you think? Here or there? Such an idea or something very close to it has happened and succeeded. If you agreed on it, stick to the spirit of the subject and not to the wording. Stick to it and you will find that in every case, you will see that your people vie with each other to interact with you to show you the best way to lead them and the best way to generate your efforts and resources in their most sublime manner so that you will realize the aim after you have made that aim clear.

This great and successful leadership is from our people. Our people themselves took the initiative toward the aim because the aim was clear. In this aim, the friend is clear, the enemy is clear. The aim is clear and legitimate.

This great and successful leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the great Iraqi people adhered to the spirit of this great march. It was a great and major undertaking. It was also successful, as testified by people with technical capability who claim to be more advanced than the Third World countries.

Furthermore, for the first time, the party and the people were given plenty of elbowroom to be creative. There were so many elements related to this issue which no one commission, leadership, or any future leadership, can cover. Therefore, the Commission adopted... [pauses] I am not well-informed of all the details. You may be surprised to hear this. I am well-informed and discuss in detail all the basic issues of the Iraqis, but I was not involved in this issue, and did not discuss the details. I only knew about the decision that the Commission [supervising the referendum] would be headed by comrade [Revolution Command Council] Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, who would be helped by other comrades. That was it. I did not ask anything after that. [applause]

Because of the great number of words with which your people needed to express themselves, and with which you needed to express your ability and to ensure your success and achievement of the goal, no instructions could cover these words. Therefore, you and the media had a plenty of elbowroom to be creative. I mean there were no set instructions: one, two, three. If you adopt this method — one, two, three — you confuse people. It is like telling someone you must run 100 meters as fast as you can, but if there is a hurdle every 20 meters, he cannot run very fast.

From now on, in order to leave a margin for interaction, creativity, and initiatives, you should adopt the method of giving directions — general directions — and not instructions. Set the objective and the basic roads leading to that objective — and these roads must be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

discussed — and then leave room for the people and the party members to take initiative.

In this referendum, the effects of the siege were numerous, pressing, and harmful; therefore, there was a prattle [qanqanah and dandanah]. Some of the people, who did not have a deep faith, may have thought that this prattle meant a rejection of the basics. They, particularly the foreigners and some Arabs, were mistaken. Those Arabs are not seen by the farmer, or the simple housewife, or this or that person. They are seen only by the person who has a certain objective, in a certain stage and time, and in a certain case. He may start making a prattle and may say that Iraq's [words indistinct] and that it abandoned its basics and all we have to do is make it join [passage indistinct] as something not normal even if this number is multiplied by any other number, had known that all the people would go up on rooftops, they also would have gone up. [applause] Why did they not do so? [passage indistinct] important and major things [words indistinct]. First, those who are hesitant will no longer be after [words indistinct]. Those who are sick in the mind will look for a remedy. We ask God that they seek a remedy. Those who from outside Iraq and wish it harm will be disappointed.

The crossing will take place, with God's help, the determination of the Iraqis, and the stand of honest Arabs. [applause]

Greetings to the brother and sister comrades and the beloved sons of the people who might not be party members but members of the professional organizations and trade unions. Before all this, greetings to the great Iraqi people. [applause] May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Saddam Chairs Joint Iraq Command-RCC Meeting

JN2810200395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1955 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi and Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir.

'Aziz Sends Message to UN's Butrus-Ghali

JN2910205095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1150 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has sent a message to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the results of the general popular referendum on the post of Iraqi president. This referendum was held through free, secret, and direct balloting on 15 October 1995.

In his message, 'Aziz said: This living and genuine practice, which was pursued by the Iraqi people and which was attended by hundreds of Arab and foreign journalists, media men, and political intellectuals, is a true expression of the situation we are living in our country. The Iraqis are well aware of this situation.

Addressing the UN secretary general, 'Aziz added: However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that certain states and circles have deliberately distorted the relationship between the Iraqi people and their leadership in order to smear the internal situation in Iraq and use it as a fabricated pretext to impose restrictions on Iraq's freedom and sovereignty.

The deputy prime minister said: Three permanent Security Council member states; namely, the United States, Britain, and France, used some transient circumstances in our country in 1991 as a pretext to impose no-fly zones in northern Iraq, north of the 36th Parallel. In 1992, under an atmosphere filled with deception, they imposed similar no-fly zones in southern Iraq, south of the 32d Parallel.

'Aziz added: The transient circumstances which followed the treacherous 30-state aggression in some northern and southern governorates only resulted from the infiltration of some saboteurs from a neighboring country. The saboteurs created chaos and disturbances in these governorates. The United States, Britain, and France used these incidents as a pretext to impose the no-fly zones in our country on the pretext of protecting Iraqi Kurds and Shiites from the regime.

The deputy prime minister said: Those transient circumstances lasted in the southern governorates only several weeks, after which calm and stability were restored and what was destroyed during military operations against our country or at times of chaos were also rebuilt.

The situation in the northern governorates, however, remained under the military control of the said states, particularly the United States that has been using military force to block every honest attempt to restore normalcy, which is now prevailing in the southern governorates, and achieve national unity through peaceful and democratic means based on understanding from the one people.

In his letter to the UN secretary general, Tariq 'Aziz also said that the large-scale popular participation in the referendum, particularly in the southern governotates over which a no-fly zone is imposed by the said states,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and the almost absolute support for electing President Saddam Husayn for the post of presidency, indicate the true situation in the country, as well as the nature of relationship between citizens in Iraq in General and in the southern govenorates in particular on the one hand and their national, legitimate leadership on the other.

Tariq 'Aziz said this fact shows that the pretexts, which were used to impose the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, were false and that the continuation of the no-fly zone is a flagrant violation of reality and Iraq's sovereignty and is also an aggression on the Iraqi people, particularly the sons of the south.

He also said: Every objective observer can conclude that if similar circumstances had been available in the three northern governorates of Dahuk, Irbil, and al-Sulaymaniyah, the inhabitants there would have taken the same position of their Iraqi brothers in the southern governorates and elsewhere.

The deputy prime minister also told the UN secretary general: Under the UN Charter, you have a special responsibility to protect the independence and sovereignty of the member states and to resist attempts by influential powers in the world to violate this essential right of nations.

The deputy prime minister asked the UN secretary general to use his moral influence and powers that are stipulated in the UN Charter to force the countries that imposed this unjust embargo to lift it and to stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, respect Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and its people's right to choose their own political regime and national leadership.

The deputy prime minister enclosed in his letter a list showing the number of people who took part in the referendum out of those eligible to vote; the number of those who supported President Saddam Husayn's nomination for the post of president of the Republic of Iraq; and the number of those who objected to this. The list also shows the results of the referendum particularly in the southern governorates referred to in this letter.

The deputy prime minister also addressed messages to the foreign ministers of the Security Council permanent member states. In his messages to the U.S. and British secretaries, Tariq 'Aziz held their governments responsible for the violation of Iraq's sovereignty under false pretexts. He called on them to stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

In his message to the French foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz expressed hope that the French Government would draw the right conclusions from the results of the public referendum to reconsider its participation in the no-fly zone in the south and north.

In his messages to the foreign ministers of Russia and the PRC, Tariq 'Aziz said that the two friendly nations — in line with their responsibilities toward the Charter and as two permanent Security Council members — should make all possible efforts to force the United States and its allies to lift the embargo and stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz's messages to the Security Council's non-permanent member states were to the same effect.

In the same context, Tariq 'Aziz sent messages to the foreign ministers of Arab states and to a large number of countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Vice President Discuss Sanctions Lifting With UN Chief

JN2810200895 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf has held lengthy talks with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

A UN source said that the 40-minute talks addressed issues related to lifting the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people and the fulfillment by the United Nations of its obligations toward Iraq.

It is to be recalled that Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf headed the Iraqi delegation to the celebrations marking the United Nations' 50th anniversary held in New York.

Authorities Release Kuwaiti, Saudi Nationals

LD2910115195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 29 Oct (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry today announced that the Iraqi authorities have released three Kuwaiti and four Saudi citizens, who had inadvertently crossed the Iraqi border. In a press statement received by KUNA, Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil al-Ibrahim, director of Public Liaison Department, said that those who were released had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment on charges of illegally entering Iraqi territory on different dates after losing their way near the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and inadvertently entering Iraqi territory.

The Kuwaiti citizens are Ahmad Fahd 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Azimi, Muhammad Mubarak Fahd al-'Azimi, and Falah Muhammad Siraj al- Rashidi. The Saudi citizens are Sind Muhammad Shadid al-Shimri, Asi Bashir al-Shimri, Faris Zibn al-Zufayri, and Farhan Ghanith Za'l al- Shimri.

Lt. Col. al-Ibrahim said the release of the Kuwaiti and Saudi citizens was the result of persistent efforts by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Kuwaiti Government in cooperation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Defector Husayn Kamil Denies Returning to Iraq

NC2910194295 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and former industry minister, who defected to Jordan, have denied rumors that he intends to return to Iraq.

The London SUNDAY TELEGRAPH reported today that Husyan Kamil intends to return to his country this week after receiving assurances from Saddam Husayn guaranteeing his safety. These sources confirmed that Husayn Kamil received numerous offers from the Iraqi leadership to convince him to return to Iraq, but he rejected all these offers. The sources said that his next step is to visit Damascus next week to continue his contacts with the Iraqi opposition figures.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin 'Not Sorry' About al-Shaqaqi Murder

TA2910054895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli security forces have been put on the alert for the possibility of demonstrations in the territories or attacks in the wake of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi's killing, and it is quite possible that security has already been stepped up at Israeli and Jewish institutions abroad as well.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, asked for his comment by reporters last night, said that if indeed al-Shaqaqi was murdered, he is not sorry. Rabin said al-Shaqaqi stood at the head of a murderous terrorist organization which killed innocent people. He said al- Shaqaqi was responsible for murderous acts, including the terrorist attacks at Bet Lid and Kfar Darom, which no culture could tolerate. The prime minister added that al-Shaqaqi had many enemies, including Palestinians, because he supported Libyan leader Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi.

Peres Comments on al-Shaqaqi Killing, Syria Talks

TA2910181095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he was not aware of any Israeli involvement in the killing of the Islamic Jihad leader in Malta. Peres said he did not think al- Shaqaqi's death would be detrimental to the peace process. Peres was speaking to reporter No'omi Segal this morning at the Jerusalem Business Conference.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I mean, I think his business was murdering. So if there will be one murderer less, I do not see how it is going to effect the peace process.

[Segal] But what about threats by Islamic Jihad activists in the territories to retaliate?

[Peres] They say it all the time. There is nothing new about it.

[Segal] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is going to Syria. The Americans have said they would not send another mission unless they thought there were real chances for progress. What is your take on this move?

[Peres] I hope there will be a new opening for negotiations. I shall be seeing the secretary of state in the afternoon, so I shall know a little bit more.

[Segal] Do you think this indicates that there is a chance for progress?

[Peres] Right now it does not look very promising, but it is not the end of the negotiations. It is an interruption and hopefully we shall find a way how to bridge over between the present unhappy state to a new beginning. [end recording]

Cabinet Discusses al-Shaqaqi's Murder, Syria Talks

TA3010110195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A brief cabinet session ended a short time ago at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The issues on the agenda were the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta and Christopher's visit to Damascus. Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The assassination in Malta featured at the top of the cabinet's agenda. Given its professional nature, journalists asked the cabinet ministers whether they had heard from Israel's top security officials of the assassination's being our job. What are you talking about, Police Minister Shahal said: We should not forget that there are bloody rivalries within the terrorist organizations.

[Shahal] The possibility should not be ruled out that he was killed by those elements.

[Hecht] Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i, Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz, and the head of the Shin Bet briefed the cabinet about the precautions taken for the eventuality of reprisals.

[Shahal] As far as the defense establishment is concerned, the Israel Police and the security services first and foremost, we are aware of the repercussions of this incident and are doing our best to ensure security.

[Hecht] Might the assassination in Malta endanger the peace process, we asked. Quite the contrary, Minister Efrayim Sne replied.

[Sne] Every terrorist less is good for the peace process.

[Hecht] The issue featuring in the prime minister's briefing to the ministers was the negotiations with the Syrians. The picture repeats itself, Rabin said: Each time Christopher goes to Damascus, the Syrians pose preconditions.

Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that the cabinet stood by Rabin's position that this is totally unacceptable.

[Tzaban] As is known, the Israeli Government is willing to enter negotiations on all issues on the agenda, but definitely not with preconditions.

[Hecht] Should I gather that the prime minister decided on behalf of the government to reject any preconditions?

[Tzaban] I think your description is accurate.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Hecht] We may be stuck, the prime minister said, but it was the Syrians who stuck the process. Nevertheless, the prime minister added, this does not mean that there are no longer any chances of resuming the negotiations with the Syrians this year.

The government also decided to put 1,100 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at the service of the blue police, mainly to oversee the security of settlements. [end recording]

Security Forces Step Up Alert After Assassination

TA2910074995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has stepped up its alert in the territories in case there are disturbances and acts of revenge in the wake of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination. Islamic Jihad activists say that they will avenge their leader's murder, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] fears that the deed will harm the peace process. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The assassination shocked the Islamic Jihad leadership in the territories. The PA held marathon contacts and consultations to determine its response to the assassination. Relatives of al-Shaqaqi who live in Tall al-Sultan in Rafah remained mum, but the Islamic Jihad confirmed that the person murdered in Malta was its leader. [passage omitted]

The PA fears that al-Shaqaqi's assassination will hurt is appeal to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad to halt attacks against Israel and conciliate with the PA. 'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas leader, said it will lead to reactions whose outcome cannot be forecast. Other Palestinian figures said al-Shaqaqi's assassination will harm the peace process. Israeli security sources note that if there are attacks, it will harm the IDF's redeployment on the West Bank. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel security sources believe the assassination will send shock waves through the Islamic Jihad but will not annihilate it. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

[Begin Menashe recording] Israel has a long, bloody account to settle with the Islamic Jihad leader. Al-Shaqaqi is responsible for the murder of Israelis at Bet Lid, the Netzarim junction, and Kfar Darom. Hitting the leader is a blow to the Islamic Jihad, which is made up of several hundred members, mostly in the Gaza Strip, and several thousand supporters on the West Bank. It is the most radical and active organization among the Islamic factions, with strong ties to Tehran, Hizballah in south Lebanon, and Syria, which gave al-Shaqaqi a safe haven in Damascus and permitted him to operate from there. Al-Shaqaqi also had strong ties with Libya.

The organization will continue to operate, but it is reasonable to assume that its effectiveness will be impaired and, because it is a small organization, the assassination of its leader could hurt the organization and its prestige, as well as the morale of other organizations, for a long time. Nevertheless, the initial response to the assassination could be acts of reprisal. Following reports linking the murder to Israel, the IDF is preparing for acts of revenge by the Islamic Jihad. The security forces have been ordered to step up their alert. Military sources said that after the reports on al-Shaqaqi's murder, warnings of intentions to carry out reprisals were received. Israel believes al-Shaqaqi's assassination should not affect the dialogue with the Palestinians. [end recording]

Security Measures Stepped Up in Fear of Reprisals

TA3010061895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's security forces have obtained intelligence information that a suicide bomber plans to carry out a suicide attack in Israel to retaliate for the assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi. Our correspondent Yoni Ben- Menahem reports that based on this information, youths from Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria have been banned from entering Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 30 October adds: "Starting this morning, Israel began limiting entry of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to workers aged 35 and over. Students from Gaza are not being allowed to enter Israel, while Palestinians from the West Bank and East Jerusalem are also being barred from traveling to Gaza. Cars are not being allowed entry into Israel from Gaza, but commercial goods will continue to be transferred at crossing points into the Strip."]

Our correspondent points out that Israel has had this information for a long time, and that the same terrorist had planned to perpetrate the attack during the Jewish holiday season. Fears, however, that the terrorist might once again try to perpetrate his attack have mounted in the wake of al-Shaqaqi's assassination. Israel relayed this information to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Security sources in Israel decided to step up security around Israeli and Jewish targets throughout the world. Fears about a reprisal arose in the wake of foreign reports attributing al- Shaqaqi's assassination to Israel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Palestinian Police in the autonomy have also taken precautions to avert possible terrorist attacks by Islamic Jihad. The leaders of the organization in the Gaza Strip were warned that tough measures would be taken against them if they perpetrate attacks against Israel. A senior Palestinian Police source estimates that Islamic Jihad will try to carry out a retaliatory attack abroad with the help of Hizballah. According to this source, the Palestinian Police believes that Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are not interested in a confrontation with the PA despite al-Shaqaqi's assassination.

Al-Shaqaqi Death Leads to Hebron Riots, Strikes

TA2910092595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Youths rioted and hurled stones at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Policemen's Square in the center of Hebron today. Studies ceased in the city's schools and a mourning strike was declared in the business center of Hebron over the murder of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the Islamic Jihad is a murderous organization and that those who deal in murder risk being murdered. He made the remarks in response to questions by reporters at the Jerusalem Business Conference. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that the conference will discuss national and regional projects, satellite communications, and high-tech industries today.

Press Hails al-Shaqaqi Murder, Warns of Revenge

TA2910111595

[FBIS Editorial Report] All Israeli dailies on 29 October carry banner headlines about the assassination in Malta of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi on 26 October, attributed to Israel's Mosad. Most of the Hebrew-language papers follow the story with front-page commentary, written before the killing was officially confirmed.

In a 500-word commentary entitled "The Bloody Account has Been Settled" on pages 1 and 4 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Alex Fishman writes that the killing "settles a long, painful, and bloody account with the man responsible for the murder of dozens of Israelis." "His assassination is not only a serious blow to the Islamic Jihad but also to the morale — and perhaps even more than that — of the bulk of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations trying to sabotage the peace process." Fishman adds that the hit on al- Shaqaqi was "a show of impressive professionalism and perfect performance."

Writing on pages 1 and 2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV, Ya'aqov Erez joins in Fishman's praise. In a 300-word commentary entitled "A Long Arm," he says that such activity "shows that the Mosad has excellent operational abilities and can penetrate the tightly closed Islamic fundamentalist organizations and obtain intelligence." Erez says Israel has proven that "the only thing that stands between it and eliminating the leaders of radical terror organizations is: a decision." He says that with the assassination, "Israel is reverting to the option of activating its long arm.

"At the same time, one must take into consideration that the Malta event might intensify attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets worldwide. The Islamic Jihad and its partners in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah will do everything they can to retaliate in Israel and Lebanon."

Under the header "A Murderous Enemy Who Operated From Damascus Undisturbed," Ze'ev Schiff's 400-word commentary on pages A1 and A10 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ states that "a hit on al-Shaqaqi is, in practice, a strike at Tehran, which provided him with financial and ideological support, and at Syria, which gave him refuge in Damascus and allowed him to operate from there undisturbed." Schiff reports that "al-Shaqaqi recently rejected a Palestinian Authority [PA] proposal to stop terror attacks against Israel from inside PA territory. He refused to negotiate the issue, even if the suspension was to be temporary. When some of his men in the Gaza Strip expressed willingness to negotiate a cease-fire with the PA, al-Shaqaqi attacked them, claiming they do not represent the organization."

Schiff concludes that "once it finally becomes clear that the organization has lost its leader, one of his deputies in Damascus will probably take his place. The organization will keep operating, but it stands to reason that its effectiveness will be impaired."

A 600-word commentary by On Levi on page 1 of DAVAR RISHON entitled "A Long and Open Account" is not in full agreement with Schiff, noting that "it is not clear that the elimination of its leader will destroy the organization and the motivation of its troops." Nonetheless, Levi adds that "this is the correct response to terrorism. It once again shows that no terrorist is immune and that Israel's long arm will get them in the end." Levi, however, cautions: "The elimination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, important as he may be, might lead to severe consequences. It should be hoped that whoever ordered the assassination considered the events that may follow. Al-Shaqaqi lived and had his headquarters in Syria but received aid from Iran and Libya. Iran has proven that it can attack Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and it may be assumed that it will seek revenge this time as well. It can also be assumed that al-Shaqaqi's subordinates in Gaza will not stand idly by."

Peres on Mideast Bank, Syria, Peace Process

BR2710132395 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 27 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ugo Tramballi in Jerusalem; date not given: "Peres: Poverty the Enemy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tramballi] Minister, apart from the Italians, the European Union (and especially the Germans and British) is still opposed to a Middle Eastern Bank.

[Peres] "This region has never had an institution to consider what do to and where to go," the minister replied, in his office at the Foreign Ministry (curiously, at a time when modern homes and buildings are being erected throughout Israel, the Foreign Ministry still resembles a kibbutz in the center of Jerusalem — an assemblage of prefabricated units, with linoleum and air conditioning.) "Banks usually support countries, and it is often said that they distribute the money of the wealthy countries' poor to the poor countries' wealthy. But the real problems here are of a regional character. For instance, the Palestinians do not have a state, and Israel is not underdeveloped. If we are to draw up a joint blueprint, we need a regional bank. And we need help from everyone — the Americans, the Europeans, and the Japanese.

[Tramballi] The clash between the Americans and Europeans over the Bank conceals a diversity of interests and strategies in the Middle East. Are you not worried?

[Peres] The disagreements are not confined to the Middle East. Nevertheless I think that we will be able to mobilize the goodwill of both sides.

[Tramballi] In the preparations for the Amman summit you, the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the Egyptians mediated between the United States and Europe, turning from one of the sides in the conflict into a mediator. Is this a paradox or a sign of change?

[Peres] It is the future.

[Tramballi] Whether rightly or wrongly, the Arabs still fear that, with peace, Israel will monopolize the economy of the region.

[Peres] This is absolute nonsense. Let us talk about the Arab economy; what there is, is Arab poverty. Who wants to dominate poverty? Economics is based on competition, not on domination. If we purchase Japanese goods, it is because they are of good quality. Over the years our population has increased by 20 percent, and our GNP by 40 percent. In 1995 we will have an economy worth $80-85 billion, and an average income of $15,500. We live on high technology, not food products and textiles. Our markets are Europe and Japan. What we want is to see the Arab economy flourish, because low living standards feed fundamentalism and violence. The days of Marshall Plans are over: Nobody gives money away, unless there is an economic system. As long as many countries of the Arab World continue thinking in the old way, they will pay a very high price.

[Tramballi] But the fact is this: In almost all the countries of the region there is not a modern economic system, whereas competition is increasing throughout the rest of the world.

[Peres] The fact is that if investors knock on the Middle East's door and nobody opens up, they will go elsewhere. The conditions are clear now: Open up your economy and understand that the name of the game is not Nation, but Market, GNP. So you must invest in education. In many Arab countries, for every dollar spent on education, $135 is spent on defense. The governments are terribly inefficient and costly; they are like staff headquarters. But when you have computers you no longer need a staff headquarters. In Israel we have one computer for every 11 students, from kindergartens upward. Recently the European Union asked me what I thought of their decision to give the region 4.7 billion ECU. I told them not to spend the money on too many projects but to devote themselves to water supplies that will generate food and to education which will produce the future. This is why the Bank would be extremely useful.

[Tramballi] Nevertheless Jordan still spends 24 percent of its budget on defense, and the same applies to Saudi Arabia and many others.

[Peres] Strangely, we are King Husayn's only real friends. It is said that nothing divides the Arab World as much as Arab unity.

[Tramballi] Egypt, the first to make peace with Israel, is most afraid of all of losing its central position within the region.

[Peres] They were the pioneers of peace, and now they must become pioneers in the modern Arab economy. They must realize that it is not Israel, but the present era, that is competing with them. It is not we who introduced a new world economy.

[Tramballi] Business requires political stability. But Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran are still outside the peace process. Is this not a serious limitation?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Peres] We are pursuing two paths at the same time — an economic one, with the great opportunities that it offers; and a political one. Whoever wants to join us, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians is welcome. But we will not wait.

[Tramballi] It is said that there can be no peace without Syria. Does this rule still apply?

[Peres] Complete peace needs Syria, but the process is going ahead without it. We had five enemies, now there are just two — one, in fact, because Lebanon is under Syria's control. The Syrian economy is not at all brilliant, and if it does not join our club it will be punishing itself.

[Tramballi] What would happen in the Middle East if next year the Republicans were to win the American elections and the Likud Party the Israeli elections?

[Peres] It is not my job to concern myself with American politics. If we were to lose the elections here and the Likud were to continue building settlements on the West Bank, it would be a real problem for peace.

[Tramballi] In this second phase of the peace agreement, Israel is relinquishing land, resources, political powers, and the idea of a Greater Israel. Some people say that yours is Israel's first post-Zionist government.

[Peres] The first to want a partitioning between us and the Arabs was David Ben Gurion: Would you call him a post-Zionist? We did not divide the land: It is the land that divided us. We confined ourselves to acknowledging the fact. I do not think that Gaza or Nabulus are Zionist: They are Arab cities, and we must acknowledge the fact.

[Tramballi] You are famous for your optimism. Already you are imagining a Middle Eastern Benelux. But there is a big gap between rhetoric and reality.

[Peres] If we were to read all the conditions written on airline tickets, nobody would fly any more. What I mean is that reality always seems more complex. True, there are difficulties, but in the meantime we are reaching agreement on many things that were previously impossible.

[Tramballi] In Israel too there is a gap between the government and the people over the desire to make peace with the Arabs.

[Peres] There are three tragedies in life — when parents lose their children, when children lose their parents, and when both lose their traditional points of reference. It is normal for any change to cause regret and fear.

[Tramballi] Yasir 'Arafat told the United Nations that Israel and Palestine are two nations walking side by side. Do you agree?

[Peres] We have reached an agreement on how to introduce their autonomy, not on how to create a state.

Hopes High for Gas Deal With Qatar During Summit

NC2810135895 Paris AFP in English
1339 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Oct 28 (AFP)— Israel hopes to clinch a deal with Qatar on the supply of natural gas to the Jewish state during the Amman economic summit, an Israeli diplomat said Saturday [28 October].

Officials from both sides are to meet during the three-day conference, which opens Sunday, to discuss the multi-billion-dollar deal and they may reach a breakthrough, the diplomat said, asking to remain anonymous.

Fred Sicre of the World Economic Forum, one of the main organisers of the summit, told AFP: "There is going to be an announcement made." But he would not give further details.

Another organiser, Greg Blatt, said: "It is one of the many interesting deals that will be looked at during the summit. It has been negotiated for many months and is coming closer now."

A Qatari diplomat in Amman said that "nothing has been officially concluded for the moment," adding that Israeli and Qatari officials would meet in coming days in the Jordanian capital.

The Qatari delegation to the Amman summit is headed by Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim al Thani. Israel will be represented by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

U.S. Embassy Move 'Serious Threat' to Peace

JN2910195395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs (RCJA) Saturday [28 October] described a vote by the U.S. Congress to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as contravening international law and the U.N. Geneva Conventions and offending Arab and Islamic nations.

The congressional decision, which was endorsed by the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, constitutes a serious threat to the peace process which is sponsored by the United States and which has repeatedly affirmed its determination to build a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the statement said.

The U.N. resolutions call on Israel not to move its government headquarters to Jerusalem. The Security Council condemns the acquisition by Israel of Arab land by force and its attempts to change the legal status of Jerusalem and demands the cancellation of all measures that aim at any change in the character of the Arab city, the statement said.

The U.S. legislature's vote flagrantly violates these U.N. resolutions, the statement added.

Since Arab Jerusalem was occupied in the 1967 war U.N. resolutions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip apply also to the Arab city, the statement said.

It said the U.N. resolutions urged all nations to pull out their diplomatic missions from the city in implementation of resolution 478 of 1980.

Noting that the vote in the U.S. Congress coincided with the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the statement said the vote totally disregarded the two sides' announcement that they would discuss the future of Jerusalem in the final stage of their negotiations next spring. The statement concluded by saying that Jerusalem will remain the crux of the Arab- Israeli conflict, stressing that there can be no just and durable peace in the region without the restoration of Arab sovereignty to the Arab city which should become the capital of the state of Palestine.

Al-Shaqaqi Murder Said Aimed To Stop Redeployment

JN3010095095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Oct 95 pp 30, 28

["Standpoint" column by Muhammad Ka'wash: "The Assassination of al-Shaqaqi in Terms of Timing and Goals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Assassination is part of the Israeli mind-set. Physical liquidation for political reasons is an established tradition used by Zionist Jewish gangs before the inception of the Israeli entity on Palestinian territories. That is why we were not surprised by the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta, just as we were not surprised by the assassination of many others before him. But why now? How important was the time factor in this episode?

The Israeli conduct is that of organized gangs. It is far removed from the conduct of governments or states regardless of the excuses and pretexts Israel could advance. The dirty operation carried out by the Mosad in Malta is a fresh link in the bloody Israeli drama. This crime is meant to produce a bloody escalation in the territories, to step up tension in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to bring a halt to withdrawal, and to obstruct the peace process regardless of the allegations, statements, and claims regarding Israel's "love" for peace and stability in the region.

The Israelis are well aware that the assassination and physical liquidation of Palestinian opposition leaders will blow up the situation and push for an escalation. That is why they committed their crime in Malta and said that redeployment will be conditional on nonresponse from the Palestinian Islamic factions.

Additionally, they committed their crime to undercut the ongoing dialogue between the National Authority and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] to prevent them from reaching an agreement that would promote national unity. Israel aims to open the door for all possible scenarios.

The goals and purposes of this operation are exposed. Only the deceitful can promote such an operation. Nonetheless, Rabin must realize that violence begets violence and that blood draws blood in an endless chain.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dallul: Embassy Move 'Harms' U.S. Interests

NC2910144195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that the U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem harms U.S. interests and the peace talks in the region. He called on the Arab states to boycott the Amman Economic Conference, to implement the Arab Joint Defense Pact, and to support Lebanon against Israeli attacks.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Leaves for Syria

NC2710121295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to his departure for Damascus this afternoon, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said that there may be a slim chance of achieving peace in the region. He stressed that Lebanon is in agreement with Syria regarding the peace process. He noted that Lebanon will not sign a separate peace agreement without Syria nor will Syria sign a separate peace agreement.

Al-Hariri Reiterates Nation's Stance on Peace

NC2810134095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the inauguration of the Science College and Library buildings on the Lebanese University campus in al-Hadath, Beirut "today" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers: Our decision to meet the challenges of science and education in the years to come coincides with our confrontation of other national challenges, notably the challenge of liberating our land from the Israeli occupation and the challenge of development and construction. These two challenges constitute a crucial phase in the next stage. The continuing Israeli occupation of our land in the south has dictated continuing every means of legitimate resistance. The United Nations, on its 50th anniversary, acknowledged the right of peoples to resist the occupation of their land. This right is indivisible from the right to self- determination. [applause]

The peace process Lebanon joined based on clear principles following the Madrid conference is witnessing numerous attempts to unleash it anew on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. Lebanon has repeatedly declared that it sides with fraternal Syria in line with every effort aimed at a comprehensive, fair, and permanent peace in the region. Lebanon believes that the two cosponsors of the peace conference, particularly the United States, must apply legitimate pressure on Israel, which is responsible for the stumbling of the peace talks. Israel sometimes sets impossible conditions and often embarks on aggressive action. Lebanon is on the receiving end of the bulk of this aggressive action. [passage omitted]

Speaker Birri Returns From Damascus Talks

NC2910160195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri returned from Damascus today after meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and [Syrian Army Chief of Staff] General Hikmat al-Shihabi. He also met in Damascus with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Security and Intelligence Apparatus of the Syrian Forces operating in Lebanon.

The talks dealt with regional developments, Israel's obstruction of any progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and the situation in southern Lebanon in light of continuing Israeli attacks.

Israeli Navy Reportedly Abducts 3 Fishermen

NC2910120895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli naval forces abducted three Lebanese fishermen near the Tyre port this morning. Reports said that an Israeli gunboat opened machine-gun fire at five fishing boats, forcing one to sail toward occupied Palestine. There were three fishermen in that boat.

Fishermen Released

NC2910180495 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israelis abducted three Lebanese fishermen off the al-Mansuri coast south of Tyre this morning. The Israeli navy released the three fishermen this afternoon. They are Jihad al-Ashbar, 25; Ghalib Badawi, 23; and Qasim Barnawi, 18.

One of the fishermen said the Israeli navy abducted them this morning. He said that after opening fire on them, the Israelis forced them to proceed to an area near al-Naqurah and subjected them to a harsh interrogation.

Hizballah Chief on Policies, Israeli Limitations

NC2810154895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has urged the government to reconsider its former policies and its level of competence in order

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to improve its poor public image. He emphasized the importance of remedying the economic crisis, tackling the question of public liberties, properly implementing the law pertaining to the reorganization of the media, and proceeding with administrative reform.

[Nasrallah] *I advise them to reconsider their entire domestic policy. With regard to the government's regional foreign policy, I emphasize the importance of continuing to coordinate and cooperate with Syria. This is more important now that ever before. The government must review its entire former policies and performance. It should improve its level of competence and review many of its current projects. The government leaders should give themselves breathing space, rest for a few days, and then examine the Lebanese people's concerns. They should freeze their own personal concerns and set aside their preoccupation with their own aggrandizement. Let them look at the Lebanese people's problems. The current government team has a three-year opportunity to improve its image. It has a poor public image. There is no question about that. Then it must tackle the resistance issue and the areas that are constantly the target of Israeli assaults. The government can do a lot in this regard. It must build bomb shelters in the south. This is not merely a priority. It comes before any other priorities. First do this and then weigh the other priorities. Furthermore, there is a crushing economic and social crisis. The government leaders must sit down and seriously discuss how to remedy it. They must not merely examine ways of increasing their bank accounts. Concerning public liberties, they must demonstrate to the people that they support liberties. Why should the ban on demonstrations continue? If the president wants to do something good, he must try to make the cabinet rescind the ban on demonstrations. In this way he can demonstrate that he is for liberty, democracy, and freedom of expression. The government leaders now have an opportunity to implement the media reorganization law, proceed with administrative reform rectifying previous errors in this sphere, and forge ahead with the other tasks to which I have referred during this interview. I have already said that we criticize, disagree with, and reject such a policy and such a performance. They can reconsider their policy and performance. They must abandon the share-the-spoils mentality. What they have gained so far is enough. Aren't they satisfied already? They have gained enough. Let them sit back and say: Thank God, we have satisfied our hunger and assured our interests. Now there are other hungry people called the Lebanese people who have certain concerns that must be addressed.*

President Hafiz al-Asad, not Lebanon, is shouldering responsibility for the major regional concern; the government leaders do not have many tasks to carry out in this regard. Similarly the burden of the fighting in the south is mainly shouldered by Hizballah. What tasks do they have left? They are neither fighting nor shouldering the burden of a regional concern. Please keep the concerns of this small country in your sight. Pay attention to this small nation which has a big mind, high morale, self-assurance, and big aspirations. Draw up a list of the nation's problems and decide on ways of remedying them. Unless the government leaders do this, they will not regain the people's trust.

Nasrallah declared that the election law must be formulated in a way that will satisfy the majority of the Lebanese people and that the administrative divisions that will accompany it be fair to everyone.

[Nasrallah] *Our view is to formulate a reasonable election law and divide the country administratively in a way that will help to develop a decentralized system which the country so badly needs. This division must be visibly fair to all areas.*

Regarding the likelihood that Israel might retaliate against the recent resistance operations, 'Allamah Nasrallah said that he does not expect a major Israeli incursion but smaller reprisals, limited operations, or assassinations.

[Nasrallah] *From a political point of view, it is unlikely that Israel will carry out a major incursion like the 1982 invasion. First of all, this will ruin any chances of a political settlement. There is a political boundary which precludes an incursion. Secondly, times have changed. Conditions are not as they were in 1982. The most that the Israelis can think of carrying out is some limited operations or assassinations. Actually, Israel is not waiting for us to do anything to carry out reprisals. If Israel has not done anything military so far, it is not because it does not want to. It wants to but cannot.*

Hizballah's secretary general declared that his party opposes the country's current economic and political methods and warned that a day might come when Lebanon will be burdened with debts.

He pointed out that Hizballah has differences of view with the authorities, particularly over priorities. He declared that Hizballah's policy as an opposition group has not changed, that it is still part of the opposition but that it opposes the government in a positive, not negative way.

Nasrallah described the government's economic plan as dangerous to the country, affirming that Hizballah's outlook on this plan has not changed.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nasrallah emphasized that the country should be ruled by institutions and warned that these institutions' role is being abrogated by the troika-type government.

Regarding constitutional changes, he said that Hizballah supports the concept of developing the constitution and the country's political system. He added that he cannot give an opinion on any constitutional changes until he learns what they are. He said Hizballah is ready to discuss any constitutional changes that are submitted.

Hizballah 'To Cut Off' Hands of 'Israeli Terrorism'

NC2910205395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement distributed in Beirut today, Hizballah announced that it is determined to cut off the hands of Israeli terrorism and its tools. Hizballah noted that the assassination of Fathi al-Shgaqaqi increases its determination to hold tight to armed struggle as the only way to liberate the land and free the sanctities.

Hizballah Condemns 'Terrorism'

NC3010083995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has stated that the martyrdom of the Islamic Jihad secretary general, brother mujahid Fathi al-Shaqaqi, at the hands of veteran terrorists from among the Zionist Mosad men should increase our determination to cling to the option of jihad as the only way to liberate land and shrines, cut off the hands of Israeli terrorism and its tools, and realize dignity, honor, and glory for our nation. The Hizballah statement said: We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of the cherished martyr and to his brothers in the Islamic Resistance movement—its leadership, cadres, and mujahidin. We grip the hand of the new secretary general, brother Ramadan 'Abdallah, and all the brothers in the movement, while confirming our support for their right to resistance and jihad until the last inch of our holy land is liberated. We call on all the sides, particularly the international community, to condemn terrorism. It is the sole source of tension and crime in the region. We also call on the mujahid Palestinian people to assert their loyalty to the course of the innocent martyrs, such as Dr. al-Shaqaqi, and to proceed along the course of jihad and liberation away from the whims of unreal settlements.

Conditions Put 'Wedge' Between State, 'Resistance'

NC2810080295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following blows by the Islamic Resistance men to the occupation soldiers, enemy leaders have again invoked their old conditions concerning withdrawal from the south and setting up a settlement with Lebanon. The enemy is demanding that the Lebanese army be deployed in the occupied areas and that the Resistance operations be banned. The enemy is insisting on disarming the Islamic Resistance and on having guarantees that the enemy Agents will never be attacked.

Knowledgeable sources say the enemy conditions constitute a wedge between the Resistance and the Lebanese State. The agreement signed between 'Arafat and the enemy government reiterates the enemy's way of sowing sedition. The same sources noted that Israel's practices in the south, especially the plundering of water resources and cement for the industrial field, confirm the falsehood of the enemy's claims.

Israeli Artillery Bombards Southern Areas

NC2910172095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1400 today, Israeli artillery in al-Zaffatah bombarded Mazra'at al-Hamra', the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, the al-Litani river basin, and the outskirts of Yuhmur and al-Shaqif with 155-mm field artillery. Also, the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills and the outskirts of Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, al-Tasah basin, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, 'Andaqat, and the Sujud and al-Rayhan woods came under an artillery barrage this afternoon. Dozens of 155-mm and 120-mm shells fell in these areas.

This morning, the Israeli forces pounded the Lebanese army's derelict barracks in al-Nabatiyah and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqah. The shelling stopped at 1100.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Reaction to U.S. Embassy Move to Jerusalem

'Official Spokesman' Comments

JN2710182195 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Statement by "an official spokesman"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—After studying the U.S. Congress decision calling on the U.S. Government to move its Embassy to Jerusalem by the end of May 1999, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to reaffirm its strong objection to this decision. It constitutes a flagrant violation of principles of international law and UN resolutions on the issue of Jerusalem — especially the Security Council resolutions that consider Israel's annexation of Jerusalem to be null, void, and illegal, which have been supported by successive U.S. Administrations.

What elicits extreme surprise is to see the U.S. Congress, in its capacity as the U.S. legislative authority, issue a decision which conflicts, in essence, with resolutions of international legitimacy in order to appease Israel and to achieve domestic elections gains.

In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic would like to remind the United States, in its capacity as the cosponsor of the peace process, of the assurances it presented to Syria on the eve of the Madrid peace conference. These assurances note that the United States does not recognize Israel's annexation of the Golan and East Jerusalem.

The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the United States will continue to maintain its pledges and credibility, that it will refrain from implementing the Congressional decision, and that it will not hurt the feelings and rights of hundreds of thousands of Muslim and Christian Arabs.

People's Assembly Denounces Move

JN2810194595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a meeting this evening chaired by Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the People's Assembly listened to the Interior Ministry's replies to written questions National Assembly members formerly raised and to the reports of the various committees.

At the outset of the meeting, several members denounced the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. They stressed that neither the U.S. Congress nor any other party can decide the peoples fate and deprive Jerusalem of its Arab affiliation because, despite everything, Jerusalem will remain Arab.

The members said that the Congress decision contradicts historical facts and international laws, and that the decision represents an ongoing threat to the peace process and the region, given that it conflicts with the U.S. Administration's policy of playing the role of a fair mediator in the peace process.

The People's Assembly members called on the U.S. Administration to be more aware of the perils of this decision and its repercussions on the entire region. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Assails U.S. Congress

JN2810130295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today on the U.S. Congress approval of a bill asking the U.S. Administration to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. Congress has chosen to approve this bill at the peak of the UN 50th anniversary celebrations, indicating that the Congress does not give a damn about the principles, statutes, and principles which were entrenched in the establishment of the this international body, especially the impermissibility of the acquisition of the territory of others by force. AL-THAWRAH adds that at the same time, the Congress disregarded the UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli struggle, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the U.S. initiative to launch the peace process to find a just and comprehensive solution for the crisis in the region was based.

AL-THAWRAH points out that despite the separate agreements which were held outside the Madrid framework, conceded the just Arab rights of fully regaining their occupied territory, particularly Jerusalem, and which encouraged the U.S. Congress to take this unjust measure, it is neither acceptable nor reasonable that this or other measures should replace the principles on which the peace process was based, especially the land-for-peace principle, or change the U.S. assurances on Israel's annexation of the Golan and Arab Jerusalem. Indeed, the peace process would not have started without these principles and assurances.

AL-THAWRAH said that the strong objections to the Congress decision and the statements denunciating it have demonstrated extreme apprehension of its negative repercussions on the peace process, voicing the fear

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that this decision would abort the peace process which is suffering from a state of stagnation on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks because of Israeli intransigence. Indeed, President Clinton admitted that the Congress decision implies the risk of undermining the peace process because, as everybody knows, the decision approves of giving Israel a free hand in Jerusalem, which has sacred, high, and longstanding significance for the Arabs, both Muslims and Christians, who have had rights for thousands of years.

AL-THAWRAH concludes. Therefore, if the United States really wants to continue its sponsorship of the peace process and remain the full partner and honest broker in efforts to end the stagnation of the peace process and push it forward to realize its well-defined aim of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of implementing the international legitimate resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, then the United States must continue to honor its pledges and to maintain its credibility and refrain from implementing the Congress decision and from encroaching on the sentiments and rights of millions of Muslim and Christian Arabs, as the Syrian official spokesman announced yesterday.

Under the headline "Israel's Sabotage Role," TISHRIN writes on the peace process in the region and Israel's role in hindering the progress in this process. TISHRIN says: Israel causes the stagnation of the peace process. It is obstructing the opportunities to realize progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. TISHRIN says that recently, Israel chose to instigate the Israeli lobby in the United States, especially in the Congressional circles, to demand a law committing the U.S. Government to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to approve of U.S. aid amounting to $3 billion for Israel, even though U.S. aid for many countries has been reduced.

By these demands, the Zionist lobby intended to blackmail both the Republicans and the Democrats and push them into the battle of appeasing Israel and making exaggerated pledges to it, and to undermine U.S. credibility toward the peace process and Washington's commitments to the Arab sides, especially Syria and Lebanon.

TISHRIN pointed out that it has become clear to the simplest observers that Israel is intentionally trying to disrupt any U.S. effort with the aim of undermining the peace initiative itself, given that it was based on UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Observers have clearly noticed that the separate agreements ar ' partial settlements which Israel is peddling as an alternative to the target of just and comprehensive peace have not realized peace or security and have not brought the region any closer to peace. These agreements have instead exacerbated the conditions in the region and increased the Palestinian people's feelings of indignation and bitterness, corroborating the belief that Israel has so far not renounced its plans of expansion, settlements, and hegemony.

TISHRIN emphasizes that no matter how many agreements Israel reaches, they will not be important unless they enjoy Arab popular support. The paper adds that it is clear that Arab support is totally absent and that, on the contrary, there is active Arab opposition to separate agreements that harm the peace process.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says: From the beginning, Syria supported the U.S. peace initiative and responded to its principles and pillars. Syria continues to adhere to the UN Security Council resolutions on which this inisitative is based. However, Israel does not want peace that is based on the international frame of reference and does not want an effective and honest U.S. role in the region that helps establish a just and comprehensive peace. Here is the problem whose solution is first and last in Washington's hands.

Move 'Insult' to Clinton

JN2810133695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 28 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH described the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as one of the most dangerous resolutions in the history of the Palestinian cause, and that it may be as dangerous as the infamous Balfour Declaration.

In an editorial today by Editor-in-Chief 'Amid Khuli, the paper describes this decision as a direct aggression against peace and international legitimacy, a defiance of the Security Council, and a flouting of all its relevant resolutions.

The paper says: The Zionist lobby is behind the Congress decision. It has exercised all kinds of pressure and blackmail to lure the Congress into making this latest error. This is the most dangerous example of terrorism and terrorists who seek to explode the entire peace process.

The paper adds: The decision is an aggression against Arabs—Christian and Muslims alike. Most importantly, it is an aggression against the U.S. Administration itself and its prestige, decisions, and peace initiatives. It is a direct pressure on President Clinton and an insult to his dignity as a person and as a president.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: How will the Arabs deal with this decision, and how will the rest of the world deal

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with it? Will we play it safe and be satisfied with the few statements, condemnations, and articles which were published and are yet to be published?

The paper says: As it lured the Congress into making such a decision, the Zionist lobby was wagering on such an Arab reaction with a ceiling which the Arabs are known not to go beyond. The lobby along with the Congress members calculated this very carefully. They reckoned that the self-rule Authority is incapable of making any move or taking any action, because they know that 'Arafat has already relinquished Jerusalem in the provisions of the Oslo agreement when he accepted postponing discussion of the issue of Jerusalem until the final implementation stage of the agreement.

The paper goes on to ask: Did not the lobby and the Congress also consider that those who are moving fast [to normalize relations with Israel] for nothing in return, without being asked, and without any interests of their own had nothing to do with the cause, that they were a burden, and that the Jerusalem Committee chairman [King Hassan II]—God help that committee—embraced Rabin in New York at a time when Jerusalem was being stolen? It was being stolen while he was discussing the Jerusalem issue with those who stole it.

AL-THAWRAH calls on those who are rushing toward Israel and toward the dangerous economic summit, which will be held solely for the purpose of legitimizing Israeli hegemony over the Arabs and the entire region, to stop for a while to see how Israel is dealing with them and with their Jerusalem. The paper adds: Won't they try to stall for a while? Won't they object to the swallowing up of Jerusalem at least by suggesting that the Amman summit be postponed, hoping that this will indicate to the Congress, the Zionist lobby, and Israel that the Arabs reject violations and sacrileges.

Concluding, the paper stresses that Syria is confident that any decision or any annexation or swallowing up cannot change the facts in the region, and the fact that peace cannot possibly be realized except on clear and well-defined bases which have been declared by Syria on several occasions.

U.S. Urged To 'Drop' Relocation

JN2810165695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1234 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The world realizes that peace, as Syria has made it clear more than once, is still remote despite Israel's attempts to make the world believe that it has attained a great deal of peace and established many relations through the partial and incomplete deals it has accomplished. These deals enable Israel to evade full withdrawal and to continue its occupation of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and Jerusalem. Israel is exerting swift efforts to Judaize Jerusalem and keep it a unified capital in accordance with the Israeli political platforms.

It is truly regrettable that the international community has thus far failed to do anything vis-a-vis Israel's insubordination toward the resolutions of international legitimacy. It is also regrettable that the U.S. Administration has failed to date to force Israel to adopt an approach corresponding to the basic principle of the U.S. initiative itself, which is based on the land-for-peace formulae. Israel refuses to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, rejects full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. It also seeks to annex Jerusalem in compliance with the Torah allegations that falsify history and geography and defy the political will of the international community.

What is even more regrettable is that at a time when the U.S. Administration embarks on further efforts to overcome the stalemate plaguing the peace process, as well as the deadlock and dormancy on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks resulting from Israel's obduracy and refusal to heed the voice of right and the will of peace, the U.S. Congress passed a bill on moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. This bill seeks to consecrate the fait accompli and decide the future of Jerusalem ahead of negotiations on its status and heedless of the feelings of Muslims and Christians and their historical and spiritual rights in this holy city.

It is regrettable that the highest U.S. authority should interfere in foreign policy. It is also regrettable that this decision will affect the credibility of the U.S. policy and cast doubt on the nature of its role in the peace process if the U.S. Administration does not nullify and reject the decision. Israel, which has not taken a single step to indicate its good intentions toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace, will now use the green light provided by the U.S. Congress' bill to achieve what it was previously embarrassed to do. It will seize more Arab land in Jerusalem and clamp down on Arab Palestinian institutions there. It will use the bill to abort the opportunity to make peace, which is already threatened.

Yitzhaq Rabin's government has proved that it is not interested in peace. Day after day, it proves its hostility to peace through encouraging blind extremism, escalating the settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, and mounting acts of aggression against Lebanon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Should the U.S. Administration fail to drop the bill and contain its repercussions, the situation would become even more difficult. This will pose a threat that will kill the peace opportunity. Nobody yet knows the perils inherent in the collapse of the peace process in a region that is the most volatile among the world hotbeads of tension. The reason for this is because Israel sows the seeds of rancor and hatred, adopts an aggressive policy that challenges the owners of land and rights and defies the resolutions of international legitimacy, and plans to impose its hegemony on the region's resources.

U.S. Secretary of State's Visit Previewed

Israeli 'Skepticism' Viewed

JN2910082195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Implications of Israeli Skepticism," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that no sooner had Washington declared that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would visit Damascus tomorrow, than Israeli officials surpassed all expectations to emphasize that they do not expect any progress in the U.S. efforts to advance the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When Israeli officials express their skepticism about the results of the U.S. efforts, they in fact directly and blatantly stress that they have not given up their futile proposals and stands obstructing the peace process. This also shows that Israel has not stopped its political and media disinformation campaigns accompanying the peace process to hold Syria responsible for the stalemate and the failure to achieve any progress on the Syrian peace track.

The paper says that before giving their skeptical views, the Israeli officials should have offered what can advance the peace process, especially since they are the ones who reject the bases of peace, UN resolutions, the land-for-peace formula, and the comprehensive withdrawal principle.

In another commentary under the headline "Our Rights Are Not Public Property," AL-THAWRAH says while warning against the dangers and consequences of complying with the U.S. Congress decision, we firmly emphasize that Jerusalem, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all our other occupied Arab territories are not public property. They are not for others and members of Congress to cut and present as gifts and rewards to Israel. Nor are they bargaining cards in election contests to win the satisfaction of the Zionist lobby and its votes.

AL-THAWRAH hopes that the United States will continue to maintain its pledges, assurances, and credibility and that it will not implement the decision. It hopes that the United States will not harm Arab and Muslim sentiments and holy places.

Reaction to Peres' Remarks Viewed

JN2810085995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Syrian sources have not concealed their astonishment at Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' statements which played down the importance of the potential results of Christopher's visit to Damascus which will take place on Monday [30 October].

The sources said Peres' statements are part of the Israeli Government's efforts to foil the endeavors of the U.S. cosponsor and, consequently, the peace process.

Western sources in Damascus said Christopher's coming visit to Damascus refutes the reported U.S. dissatisfaction with the Syrians for not taking part in the Amman economic summit. Christopher will visit Damascus after this summit.

Political observers said Christopher's visit to Damascus also refutes reports about the U.S. Administration's intention to put the Syrian-Israeli track aside as part of an attempt to isolate and pressure Syria.

Israeli Comments Criticized

JN2810174295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 28 Oct (SANA) — TISHRIN criticizes the statements made by Israeli officials in which they play down the importance of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus on 30 October and doubt its results.

In a commentary today, the newspaper says these statements do not surprise anyone. Israel is the party that is responsible for the stalemate in the peace process and that is obstructing progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Israel is also the party that utilized the U.S. initiative to cancel the role of the United Nations. Israel then mobilized its efforts to destroy the very foundations of the U.S. initiative by leading it away from its course, framework, and objectives.

The newspaper adds: Everybody is now aware that Israel is deliberately undermining any U.S. effort in order to destroy the entire peace process, which was

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

based on the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Syria, on the other hand, supported the U.S. peace initiative and responded to its principles and is still committed to the Security Council resolutions on which it was based.

Christopher's Statements Reported

JN2910145795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced today that Syria continues to be in the peace process.

REUTER quoted Christopher as saying to the journalists who accompanied him aboard the plane to Amman: I see no signs that Syria has stopped its efforts, or that it is not concerned with the continuation of peace until after the Israeli elections.

Christopher added that Syrian anticipation of his visit to Damascus tomorrow proves to him that Syria desires to proceed in the peace process.

Christopher Cited on Peace

JN3010071595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: In a direct reply to the Israeli doubt-casting campaign, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that Syria has not abandoned the peace process, that it is still committed to this process, and that the United States is concerned with continuing peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The paper adds: Since the announcement that Christopher will visit Damascus for talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to activate the Syrian track, Israeli officials have been engaged in a broad doubt-casting campaign, alleging that the visit is useless. They have even held Syria responsible for the obstructions plaguing the peace process, whereas all the facts point to Israel as the culprit.

TISHRIN goes on to say: In the two meetings he held with a EU troika delegation and the Canadian foreign minister on 28 October, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad dotted the i's and crossed the t's when he said that Israel is not complying with the basis of the peace process and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. His excellency the president added that Israel is not currently ready for peace, or so it seems. Moreover, his excellency the president explained to the EU troika delegation that Syria has been serious about the peace process since it accepted the U.S. initiative and its terms of reference.

The paper says: All the world governments are fully aware that it was Syria which opened the doors wide for peace, and that it has repeatedly salvaged the peace process from the continuing Israeli sabotage. Syria is only demanding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which constitute the terms of reference of the U.S. peace initiative.

The paper adds: By its opposition to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, its announcement that Jerusalem is its eternal capital, and that it will hold on to the demand to keep early warning stations on the Golan, Israel is not only demonstrating noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the terms agreed for the Madrid conference, but also sabotaging U.S. efforts. Israel aims to revive the climate of conflict, tension, and explosion in the region.

Christopher, Delegation Meet With al-Asad

JN3010124695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the People's Palace at 1100 today. Christopher was accompanied by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process; Mark Parris, special assistant to the U.S. president for Middle East affairs at the U.S. National Security Council; and Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim.

Al-Asad: Israel 'Not Ready for Peace' at Present

JN2810213395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 gmt 28 Oct

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received the European Troika delegation, headed by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, at 1500 today. [passage omitted]

Discussions dealt with the regional peace process, Europe's role in it, the forthcoming Barcelona conference, and Syrian-European relations. President al-Asad voiced support for an active European role in the peace process. He said that Syria has for a long time called for an active and serious European role in the peace process. He welcomed promoting Syrian-European relations for the benefit of the two sides.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The president said: Syria has been serious about the peace process since it accepted the U.S. initiative according to the foundations that were agreed upon with the United States. On the other hand, it appears that Israel is not ready for peace at the present time.

The European delegation stressed Syria's importance in the peace process. It expressed appreciation for this role and Europe's interest in peace in the region and its aspirations for further cooperation and relations. He said that Syria has an important role vis-a-vis the Barcelona conference.

Israeli 'Obstacles' Hinder Breakthrough

JN2910180295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Soon after the announcement that Warren Christopher intends to visit Damascus to discuss ways of advancing the peace process on the Syrian track, Israeli officials, headed by Rabin and Peres, began hinting that none of them expect the revival of negotiations, and that Christopher's visit was not expected to result in anything. The Israelis linked any progress to the size of change in the Syrian position on the peace process, as if the question depended on changing the Syrian position.

With such hints, the Israelis believe they can link the halt in negotiations to the Syrian position. If Christopher's visit fails, the Zionist media in the international arena will launch a campaign in which statements by Peres and Rabin will be the nonstop fuel undermining Syria and its strategic position on peace and its firmness in adhering to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Security Council. More important for them is to weaken the outpouring of support the Syrian position has received from the masses of the Arab nation and large sectors of international public opinion. Before and after Christopher's visit, and in a bid to alleviate the ordeal of all those who watch the peace process and listen to the statements of the Israelis and others we say: If this campaign—led by the world masters of fact-forgery, concept distortion, and map alteration—aims to give the evidence of a change in the Syrian position in a manner that undermines Syria's interests and those of the Arab nation as happened in Taba and Wadi al-'Arabah, then the wager is lost in advance, and the horse which they are riding for this purpose and in this race is a lame one. Syria will not change its position for an obvious reason, which is that the framework of the peace process as it had been planned, the U.S. initiative, and the Security Council resolutions do not constitute something that can be bargained on, but constitute the minimum standard to which it should adhere, not only to restore rights and land, but to save the region and its peoples from the consequences of an incomplete and fragile peace that includes no elements that might lead the peoples to defend it and stick to it.

But if the wager is on removing the obstacles that have been placed by Israel on the peace road throughout the past four years and overcoming the difficulties which Peres and Rabin have taken pains to create through threats, statements, and hints, then substantial progress will be realized by Christopher that will move the peace process from its current difficult situation to the course of fulfillment and maturity and the aspired breakthrough. The Israeli proposals which undermine sovereignty, equitability [takafu'], equality, and justice, remain to be rejected in form and content. Syria does not bargain on sovereignty or dignity, regardless of the circumstances and reasons. The road to peace is clear, and its conditions are plain. He who wants to realize steps on the road to peace and facilitate Christopher's mission and to wager on its success should declare his commitment to the bases of the peace process, the Security Council resolutions, and the land- for-peace principle at a minimum. This is what Israel has not done thus far.

Information Minister: Nation Cannot Be Sidestepped

NC2710155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has stated that his country will oppose by all means any strategic or political changes in the region that will lead to blocs in which Israel will enroll. He asserted that such changes will not only confuse but also threaten the whole Arab situation.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Salman said that as long as the confrontation with Israel is ongoing, no one knows how it will develop. The Arab side will rally more and more around the national Islamic trend. The state of rejection will become more volatile and tension will return to the region, especially after the recent U.S. Congress' decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Salman warned against any attempt to sidestep Syria in any way.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Dangers' of Summit, Israeli Motives Viewed

JN3010075095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the dangers posed by the Amman meeting, which is ostensibly held to address economic issues, saying: Some of the delegations attending this meeting might have sought to discuss economic issues. Nonetheless, Israel has its own ulterior motives. In his Amman meeting address, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that this meeting will contribute to tearing down psychological barriers between Israel and the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH adds: Through the Amman meeting, Israel aims to obliterate Arabism, Arab sentiments, and the Arab identity. For Israel, which has continued to occupy Arab territories, refused to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and viewed Arab Jerusalem as its eternal capital, wants the Arabs to work quickly to normalize ties with it before just and comprehensive peace is achieved. This means the start of efforts to implement Israel's plan to create a new Middle Eastern order through forcing new relations to the detriment of the existing Arab order.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying that the inroads Israel has made into the Arab order pose real dangers to the Arabs and their future, particularly since the peace that was meant to be achieved has not materialized. As for separate deals, they have only consecrated occupation and endorsed the policy of established facts. The end result is that Israel is using these facts to achieve more of its goals to the detriment of the Arabs.

Constructive European Role in Peace Welcomed

JN2910105695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the title "Europe and Its Expected Role," the newspaper AL-B'ATH writes: Syria defined its position when it went to Madrid, when it agreed to hold direct negotiations, and when it was convinced of the U.S. Administration's guarantees to render the Madrid conference a success in order to advance the peace process in a manner that would serve the region's security and stability.

AL-BA'TH continues: Syria has long welcomed any European initiative to participate in bolstering the peace process and all efforts exerted in this respect. The paper adds: The U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem has ignored these assurances and pledges and has stripped U.S. sponsorship of its credibility. Therefore, Europe has to be aware of the fact that Middle East security stems from Europe's security and vice versa. Moreover, the danger of the obstacles Israel is placing along the path of the peace process will not be confined to a single region.

Welcoming a constructive European role in the region, AL-BA'TH says: Europe, which is waiting to play an independent role emanating from European interests, will find that the Arabs welcome its participation in the peace process, provided that this participation is completely independent and totally free from all Israeli pressures.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which has often called on the Europeans to take a shortcut and make a direct move, rather than to stand in the shadow of the others, will remain faithful to its peace commitments and will continue to support any European effort proceeding from positive international action that is in line with the Security Council resolutions and UN recommendations.

Troika Delegation Leader Holds News Conference

JN2810185595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1747 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, Oct 28 (SANA)—The European Troika delegation led by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana with the membership of Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, and Margie Sudr, French Secretary of State for francophone affairs, held a news conference in Damascus this evening.

Correspondents from Arab and foreign news agencies, international television networks, Syrian media men, and the press team accompanying the Troika delegation attended the news conference.

Speaking on behalf of his country, the European Union [EU] countries, and the Troika delegation, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana said he is happy to visit Syria. He said that his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dealt with three topics; the peace process, European-Middle East relations, and the Barcelona conference. He said: Through this conference, we, in the EU, want to start a new partnership between Mediterranean basin countries and European countries.

Solana added that the discussion also dealt with Syrian-EU relations, and the possibility of concluding a partnership agreement between the EU and Syria.

Solana also said he is happy at the manner with which these visits have taken place. He said: We hope that the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Barcelona conference will be a new page in the relations between the EU and the Mediterranean countries, and that agreement between Syria and the EU will be genuine.

Solana thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the warm accord and hospitality the delegation received.

On whether the Amman summit was discussed, Solana said: We did not talk much about the Amman conference. As you know, we are participating in the conference as members of the European Troika, while Syria is not participating in this conference. This conference is a continuation of the Casablanca conference.

On the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, Solana said: We discussed this issue with President Hafiz al-Asad and the foreign minister. We explained the EU's stand on Jerusalem, whose status should be discussed in the third stage of the negotiations, and Europe will not change this stand.

On the Barcelona conference and how it relates to the Middle East peace process, Solana said: The Barcelona conference is a conference among EU countries and Middle East countries, and completely differs from the Middle East peace process. The EU is committed to both. It is committed to the peace process and to new relations between EU countries and Mediterranean basin countries which are bound by partnership and cooperation relations.

He added that the Barcelona conference will mark the establishment of new relations between the EU and the Mediterranean basin countries. He noted that the Barcelona conference will deal with three issues having a political dimension, such as security, stability, and issues relating to economic and material cooperation. He noted: The EU has approved a six-billion dollar budget that will be devoted to cooperation with the Mediterranean basin countries and cultural and social issues.

Asked whether the Barcelona conference declaration will contain an article on the occupied Syrian Golan, Solana said: We have to make a distinction between the Barcelona conference and the Barcelona political declaration on the one hand and the peace process on the other. However, the declaration will address the problems facing the Mediterranean and EU countries in general. It will not touch on issues in detail.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Government Said Poised To Retake Town of Bamian

BK2810085195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Report by Chris Lefko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GHORBAND, Afghanistan, Oct 28 (AFP) — Afghan government troops are poised to recapture a strategic mountain pass and push on to the central town of Bamian, which fell to opposition forces nearly two weeks ago, military commanders said.

Tanks, troops and heavy weapons were being moved into place on Saturday [28 October] in preparation for the drive to retake the Shibar Pass, which links the provinces of Bamian and Parwan.

"When we move depends on our level of readiness," Lieutenant General Mohammed Wasel told AFP near Ghorband, a small town east of the pass, located at a height of 2,987 meters (9,857 feet).

The Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party], a Shiite Muslim militia headed by Karim Khalili, routed government troops in Bamian, the capital of Bamian province, on October 15 and seized the Shibar Pass four days later.

The loss of Bamian was a severe blow to the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, whose effective control of the country has been reduced over the past year to just the capital Kabul and the provinces of Parwan and Kapissa.

Among the forces opposed to the Rabbani government is the militia known as the Islamic Taleban, whose forces have been besieging Kabul for the past two weeks.

General Wasel, the commander of security forces in Parwan province, said he had received reinforcements of more than 800 men to take part in the push for the Shibar Pass and eventually Bamian, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) northwest of Kabul.

Wasel said his men had already managed to drive Hezb-e Wahdat fighters back to near the foot of the pass, eliminating the threat to the strategic government-held Ghorband Valley.

Two Soviet-made BMP-2 armored personnel carriers captured by government troops from the Hezb-e Wahdat were displayed to a visiting reporter.

"The enemy can't be reinforced because we've cut their supply lines," Wasel said. "They've got no way out."

Residents of the area said that Hezb-e Wahdat commander Khalili had reined in his forces when they reached the edge of Shiite Muslim-populated territory near the town of Sheikh Ali.

They said that thousands of members of Afghanistan's majority Sunni Muslim community had fled Bamian after it was captured by Khalili's Shiite militia.

Nik Mohammed, a shopkeeper, fled Bamian, a stop on ancient caravan routes and one-time center of Buddhist culture, with his wife and eight children.

Mohammed, who was born in the town and had lived there all his life, was not hopeful of going home anytime soon.

"I doubt it will be retaken," he said. "The Hezb-e Wahdat captured a lot of equipment from the government.

Taleban, Government Forces Clash in Western Kabul

LD2910140095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Clashes have intensified between forces loyal to Borhanoddin Rabbani and the Taleban forces in western Kabul. According to our correspondent from Kabul, a source from the Taleban group claimed that its forces attacking government forces in Gargandi [as heard, presumably Arghande] region have achieved victories.

Ettehad-e Eslami Party [Islamic Union Party], the government ally, has also confirmed the clashes and has denied the Taleban group's claim, based on advancing in Arghande. Arghande region, near Paghman, is the deployment site of the Islamic Union Party, the ally of Borhanoddin Rabbani's government.

Meanwhile war between the Taleban group and Afghanistan government has subsided in the regions and the two sides have only sporadically shelled it other's positions. Reports also indicate from Paktia Province in eastern Afghanistan, which is under the control of the Islamic Party Yunus Khales branch, that due to tribal clashes between members of the two tribes, tens of people from both sides have been killed. During the clashes over the ownership of local lands, the two sides have used light and heavy weapons.

Islamic Army Claims Defeat of Taleban Near Kabul

LD2710183295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban were heavily defeated last night in Khord-Kabul and Band-e Ghazi [35 km south of Kabul].

An Armed Forces source reported to BAKHTAR that last night the Taleban group launched three attacks in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the southeast. These attacks were heavily defeated by the Islamic Army and the attackers retreated. Benazir Bhutto's Taleban left a number of dead and wounded behind and one of their tanks was also destroyed.

A responsible source said that the mercenary Taleban group by embarking on these attacks were in fact trying to remedy their previous night's defeat in the southwest. Again, they were forced to flee after sustaining loss of life.

A jet aircraft of the Taleban group jet today bombarded residential areas in Paghman District [20 km west of Kabul] causing some injuries to the civilian population.

Flights To Kabul Airport Said Temporarily Suspended

BK2710125295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Oct 27 (AFP) — All flights into Kabul were temporarily suspended on Friday [27 October] as another barrage of rockets rained down near the capital's airport, a security officer said.

He said planes were being re-routed to a military airport in Bagram, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the capital.

The four rockets landed harmlessly on a hill outside the airport perimeter, the officer said. There were no casualties.

At least five rockets were fired at the airport on Wednesday and 10 on Tuesday. Most fell wide of the mark but two landed near a runway on Wednesday, causing minor damage.

The Afghan authorities accused Taleban rebels besieging the capital of staging the rocket attacks.

The only commercial airline currently flying into Kabul is the Afghan flag-carrier Ariana but the airport is also used by UN planes and flights by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Islamic Taleban militia has been besieging the Afghan capital for two weeks.

The Taleban movement, which started in the Koranic colleges of southern Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, mostly comprises members of the country's ethnic Pashtun community.

The militia has vowed to topple the nearly three-year-old government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and establish Islamic law.

A previous attempt by the Taleban, or "Students of Religion," to capture this city of nearly one million people was repulsed in March.

Airport Said Closed After Attack

LD2810145995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban warplanes once again attacked Kabul airport and residential areas in the north and west of Kabul.

According to a report from Kabul by the Central News Unit, as a result of yesterday's Taleban attack on the residential regions of Kabul, at least three people were killed and a number were injured. A number of houses were also destroyed.

The airport was closed for an unspecified period of time as a result of the Taleban attack on Kabul airport yesterday.

The fighting was also intensified in the Band-e Ghazi area after Taleban forces launched an attack on government positions.

A source of the Ministry of Defense in Afghanistan said that in the course of pushing back the Taleban attack, at least 40 Taleban forces were killed and one of their tanks was destroyed. The source also put the number of government forces losses as two injured.

Radio Reports on Taleban, Government Clashes

LD2710124695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Air and artillery war between the Taleban group and the government forces of Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of Afghanistan, continued yesterday while the intensity of the ground clashes has subsided.

According to IRNA reporting from Kabul, the Afghan Defense Ministry stated in a communique that the attacks by the Taleban groups south and west of Kabul have been completely repelled and as a consequence 90 members of this group have been killed.

Also according this report the Taleban fighter bombers raided the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday afternoon for the third time, killing five people.

Yesterday airplanes of the Taleban group bombed parts of Paghman and the rallying point of Afghan government forces in Sangneveshteh, in Chahar Asiab. In response to these air attacks the government forces attacked the regions controlled by the Taleban group in the city square and Chahar Asiab. Part of Chahar Asiab is occupied by the Taleban forces.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Taleban Ammunition Convoy Destroyed, 100 Killed

LD2910173895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1539 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large Taleban ammunition convoy was bombarded by the government air force near Kowt-e 'Ashrow on Wednesday [25 October]. The DARIZ newspaper writes that the convoy, which was moving from Spin Buldak to Kowt-e 'Ashrow, was attacked by government air force planes. As a result the convoy was totally destroyed and 180 Taleban were killed. The newspaper adds that a large number of coffin makers from Lowgar and Vardak Provinces were called in last Thursday and Friday to make coffins for the dead Taleban to be sent to Pakistan. As many as eight coffins were sent with special ceremony. [sentence as heard]

Minister Urges UN To End Foreign Intervention

LD2610224995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In referring to the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan, the acting minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, stated:

Mahmoud Mestiri, the envoy to the United Nations, has never taken an actual step to end or to criticize foreign intervention in Afghanistan. In his interview with ANIS newspaper printed in Kabul, Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i added: The United Nations must put the issue of ending and preventing foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan at the top of its activities in Afghanistan. He said: Thus far Afghanistan has sent several letters complaining to the United Nations regarding the intervention by Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, but the organization has only made some general or complicated statements.

In saying that the Government of Afghanistan always want to have good relations with Pakistan, the acting minister of foreign affairs said: Unfortunately, the Government of Pakistan, in addition to the arming of the opposition forces and military interference, has also broadened its intervention in the political and propaganda areas.

Pakistan National Party Sends Message of Support

LD2610222095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a message by the Awami National Party [of Pakistan], addressed to the brave people of Afghanistan:

It is clear to all Afghans that the leaders of the Awami National Party and all its members are the historic friends of the people of Afghanistan. At present some foreign forces, in particular Pakistan's government and its notorious ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], are interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and attempting to divide independent Afghanistan into so many parts and to install their puppet government in there. For this reason, they have begun fighting in Kabul. As a result of this hundreds of innocent Afghans are being killed or injured every day.

The Awami National Party once again expresses its solidarity with the Afghan people and warns the enemies of Afghanistan's unity and integrity to stop interfering in internal affairs of Afghanistan as soon as possible. The Awami National Party will never leave the fraternal Afghan people alone and will vigorously oppose any foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Regards.

[Signed] Secretariat of the Awami National Party

Radio on Pakistan Minister's 'Ill Intentions'

LD2710004095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sardar Asif Ali, Pakistani foreign affairs minister, has once again shown his ill intentions toward our country. Bakhtar reports:

Sardar Asif Ali, who was very upset by the Taleban defeat in Kabul, commented yesterday that the president of Afghanistan should resign.

This open interference was made just before the Taleban's defeat last night in which over 90 Taleban were killed and the rest were shamefully defeated.

As stated by the deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, Asif Ali, who does not know the polite diplomatic tune, has so far twice made such undiplomatic statements.

First, when Hekmatyar had been forced to retreat from the Maranjan hills [east of Kabul city], Asif Ali nervously said that Ustad [professor] Rabbani must resign. He made a similar undiplomatic claim, for the second time, during the session marking the 50th founding anniversary of the United Nations, soon after the first defeat of the Taleban in Kabul. The statement aroused the anger of the majority of representatives at the session and they regarded it as being contrary to international principles. The deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan then exposed at the UN session the unfounded nature of such a claim and its interventionist character.

The foreign minister of Pakistan is a major obstacle to the establishment of good relations between the two neighboring countries. His visit to Kabul last year revealed the nature of his ill-intention toward the people

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of Afghanistan. During his visit this year to Kabul he ended up encouraging the Taleban to attack Kabul.

Asif Ali, who does not know anything about diplomatic politeness, is a liar and a hypocrite. During his tenure of office as head of Pakistan's diplomatic affairs, he has sufficiently isolated this country, which has aroused the anger of the politicians of the opposition parties.

India

Rao Comments on Issues Raised by Islamabad, Dhaka

BK2710131295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says he is hopeful of India getting permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Mr. Narasimha Rao was talking to newsmen on board the aircraft on his return from a three-nation tour. He said the declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly makes it clear that the organization symbolizes and promotes the interest of all countries and not just a few influential ones. Mr. Rao said New Delhi utilized the opportunity to emphasize the world body's developmental mandate and the need to expand the Security Council.

Replying to a query, the prime minister said his response to the bilateral issues raised by Pakistan and Bangladesh was the way it should have been. He said Islamabad is internationalizing the bilateral issue and India should not play into Islamabad's game.

Advani Criticizes U.S. Move on Arms to Pakistan

BK2910130195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the U.S. decision to supply military hardware and resume economic aid to Pakistan is an unfriendly act. Speaking to newsmen in Bangalore today, he said the demand by the National Conference to revert to pre-1953 position with regard to Jammu and Kashmir is not acceptable to his party. He said other national parties should also spell out their stand on the issue. Mr. Advani said his party will participate in elections in Jammu and Kashmir when held.

No Information Reported on Tamil Tigers Chief

BK2810085895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Oct 28 (AFP) — Indian authorities Saturday [28 October] said they were not aware if Sri Lankan Tamil separatist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had sneaked into the country to escape a military offensive by Colombo as a report suggested.

"We have no information" about Prabhakaran's reported entry into India, said a spokesman for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), New Delhi's premier investigating agency.

The spokesman was commenting on a newspaper report which said Prabhakaran, who heads the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers), might have fled to India by sea.

Prabhakaran, who is wanted by the CBI for the 1991 assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, reportedly entered India from Rameshwaram, a coastal town in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu, a sprawling state of 55 million Indian Tamils separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea, once served as a sanctuary to Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas fighting for a homeland in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Prabhakaran lived in Tamil Nadu for almost four years until January 1987 when he returned to Jaffna in Sri Lanka's north, which the Tamil Tigers now administer as a de facto independent state.

The CBI says the Tamil Tigers' supremo ordered the assassination of Gandhi for the latter's decision to send Indian troops to Sri Lanka in 1987. The troops fought a bloody war against the Tigers before returning home in 1990.

Commandos Said Preventing Sri Lankan Rebels' Entry

BK3010042495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A strict vigil is being maintained along the coast line of Pondicherry and Karaikal to prevent the possible entry of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants following the Sri Lankan Government's crackdown on them. According to the police, a commando force equipped with modern weapons and additional police personnel have been deployed in the union territory.

Reports from Colombo say thousands of civilians are fleeing Jaffna for safer places. To a question, police from Jaffna told newsmen in Colombo yesterday that people are being told that the LTTE might have to leave the town and move into the forest in the event of Sri Lankan Army marches into Jaffna. Fierce fighting between the government troops and the LTTE in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nirveli area near Jaffna claimed more than 70 lives yesterday.

Kashmiri Leader Survives Assassination Attempt

BK3010033995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0330 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Oct 30 (AFP) — Kashmiri Muslim separatist leader Ali Shah Gilani survived an assassination bid here Monday [30 October] when a rocket hit his residence and damaged the building, police said.

Two people were "slightly injured," police added.

Gilani, acting head of the All Parties Kashmir Freedom Conference which groups 23 Muslim rebel and political parties, and members of his family were sleeping when the rocket struck his house at 3:00 a.m. (2130 GMT), police said. Gilani, 70, who is also a leader of the pro-Pakistan Jamiat-e-Islami group escaped without injury although the attack brought down the top floor of the two-storey building in south-west Srinagar, they said.

There have been no claims of responsibility and no details about the rocket fired.

Abdul Ghani Lone, another Conference leader, escaped unhurt from a daring assassination attempt two weeks ago in this state summer capital when unidentified gunmen entered his house and fired at him.

Lone blamed the attack on Indian troops and Kuka Parray, a Muslim rebel leader who Lone says is an Indian agent.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 in violence linked to the Muslim separatist drive. Internecine rebel feuding has also claimed several lives.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting insurgency in the divided state, the cause of two wars between the neighbours. Islamabad denies the charge.

Iran

Rafsanjani Addresses U.S. Move on Jerusalem Embassy

LD2910130495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received a group of model Basiji [volunteer force] students. Calling the existence of more than two million Basiji students as a valuable and reassuring capital for the safety of the country's future and preservation of the achievements of the Islamic revolution, he asserted that what has safeguarded the Islamic revolution against all the enemies' pressures and conspiracies so far is the spirit of courage, self-sacrifice and quest for martyrdom.

Through this divine capital our nation has stood up to bullying by the United States, fearlessly considers the Great Satan as worthless and has always inflicted defeat and loss against it.

Referring to the United States' recent stance regarding the transfer of the Zionist regime's capital to Bayt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem], the President assessed it as thumbing your nose at the Islamic Ummah and Arab states and a great humiliation for them. He pointed out: under conditions where some Arab leaders look to the results of the so- called peace-talks and the present leaders of the U.S. Government set the exploitation of that issue as their main asset in their future elections, a treacherous act as that is a serious humiliation of the Arab nations and of Islam. [passage omitted]

Ambassador in Damascus Condemns U.S. Embassy Bill

NC2710092895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ill-famed decision by the United States to transfer Washington's embassy to Jerusalem remains the most topical issue among political and Islamic leaders. This decision confirms yet again the U.S. Administration's total bias toward the occupier entity and refutes the U.S. claims that America is a fair broker in the so-called peace process in the region. This decision is raising further reactions of denunciation and condemnation.

Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari stressed that the U.S. decision is intended to back the usurper Zionist government and shows that the United States is not a neutral party between the Arabs and Israel. In an exclusive statement to our radio, Akhtari said that this decision confirms what is well known about the progress of the negotiations; this decision favors the Zionist enemy. He noted that Jerusalem is the first of the two Qiblas for Muslims and the bedrock of the Palestinian existence. He reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's rejection of the existence of the Zionist entity. He noted that the U.S. decision is hostile, supportive of Israel, and is not surprising. The decision complements the hostile U.S. stances and protects Israel, he added.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Economic Conference Said Failing Over Embassy Move

NC2810095095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The countries invited to the Middle East and North Africa economic conference are preparing to attend while criticism against the United States is cresting among Middle Eastern countries. The conference in Amman on the Middle East's economy, with the participation of the United States, Europe, the Zionist regime, and the Middle Eastern countries, has been greatly affected by this criticism.

This conference, initially planned for the summit level, will be attended by the heads of only three states, namely, Yemen, Cyprus, and Mauritania. Some 71 heads of state were invited. Nearly all the representatives of Middle Eastern countries attending the conference have criticized the decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and have described it as an indication of U.S. support for Israel.

At the Middle East conference the objective of the sponsors is to seek new arrangements in the Middle East to pave the way for the debut of the Zionist regime in the region's market. The United States and the Zionist regime, which are considered the main proponents of this scheme, are striving to link their economic interests with those of the regional countries and to forge a bond between Israel and regional countries in such a manner that they will be forced to accept the Zionists in the regional market.

Since this conference was arranged some time ago and serious efforts have been made for its success, approval of the U.S. plan to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv and regional countries' opposition to this plan have had an adverse effect on it. Syria and Lebanon boycotted the conference earlier and combatant groups in the Middle East have condemned it. The decision to relocate the U.S. Embassy, revealing the complete coordination between the United States and Israel, has reinforced the stance of this group of opponents to the convocation of the Middle East conference.

With the region's countries attending without the participation of their heads of state they will have no freedom in their decisionmaking due to the impact of public opinion opposed to this conference. This will undermine the Amman conference and prevent those convening it from attaining their objectives.

Rowhani: Gingrich Proposal 'Immature and Childish'

LD3010134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1324 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Majles vice-speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani on Monday [30 October] termed the proposal made by the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich to allocate funds for confronting the Islamic republic as "immature and childish."

"The way American statesmen think is childish and Washington cannot understand that it cannot fight people's faith with money," the Majles vice speaker noted.

Rowhani, who is also the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said with the proposal of the U.S. House of Representatives the world realized that Washington resorts to every means to fight the independence of Muslim states.

He also accused the U.S. of making every endeavour to confront the Islamic revolution and topple the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Holding the Zionist regime responsible for the assassination of the secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad movement of Palestine Fathi al-Shaqaqi in Malta on Thursday, Rowhani said that Tel Aviv has violated all international norms by dispatching secret agents to other countries for terrorist activities.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani said the sublime constitution of the Muslim states is the holy Koran through which Iran not only succeeded in bringing the former regime to its knees and but is also standing firm against the global arrogance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is approaching the level of self- sufficiency because of its reliance on the holy Koran and thanks to the efforts being made by Iranian officials and people.

He said the economic progress of the Islamic revolution can be reflected by statistics, but, the spirituality of the revolution should be reflected too because this would help stabilize the revolution and foil plots of enemies.

UN Envoy Comments on Gingrich Plan

LD2810114395 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq., New York, Oct. 28, IRNA — The permanent representative of Iran to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, said here Friday [27 October] the intensification of Washington's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

efforts to overthrow the Islamic Republic government indicated the continuation of U.S. officials' hostility against Iran and was a sign of their ignorance vis-a-vis Iran's internal affairs.

Kharrazi made the remarks in criticizing a report by the WALL STREET JOURNAL on October 27, which stated that "Speaker Newt Gingrich is seeking to set aside an estimated dlrs. 18 million of the U.S. intelligence budget to finance a potential covert action aimed at ousting the Iranian Government."

The Iranian official pointed out, "these voices by high-ranking policy-makers in Washington D.C. are in flagrant violation of the basic rules and principles of international law and an affront to the right of people to choose their own government and political system. They constitute an open interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran aiming to overthrow its popularly-elected government."

Adding that such actions are "a prime example of state terrorism," Kharrazi stressed that the Iranian Government condemned such "lawless and provocative maneuvers by U.S. officials and demands that they desist forthwith, and calls for the rule of law and the principles of the charter of the United Nations to prevail."

He said U.S. officials should abandon their "self-appointed role of world policeman and come to terms with the modern realities of international politics where they can no longer dictate their wills on enlightened nations."

"Iran's track record in this area is quite clear to U.S. officials. The people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are determined and prepared to prove to Mr. Gingrich that his dream for the Islamic Republic of Iran which is symptomatic of his parochical ignorance cannot be farther from reality," Kharrazi noted.

Commentary Views Gingrich 'Plot'

LD2810211895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The WALL STREET JOURNAL disclosed in an article on October 27th that US Parliamentary Speaker Newt Gingrich [Speaker of the House of Representatives], is seeking to overthrow the government of Iran through a secret operation by allocating a 18 billion [as heard] dollar budget.

Following disclosure of this news, the representative office of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the United Nations released a statement last night calling the U.S. interventionist policies towards Iran as violations of international laws and principles. The statement denounced the plot, terming it as efforts for spoiling the political rights of the people of Iran in selecting their own type of political government and system. The statement further stipulated that the Islamic Republic of Iran, condemning the U.S. official's provocative manoeuvre, calls for an immediate halt to such insidious moves and respect for law and the UN charter.

Political observers believe that Washington's new efforts for overthrowing the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be evaluated in the light of the U.S. economic and trade embargo's defeat.

With the lapse of five months since Washington's sanctions against Iran came into effect, U.S. officials have realized the point that the imposition of sanctions has been a blunder from the beginning, and from the very beginning no benefit for the United States has accrued but a great deal of losses. [sentence as heard]

The U.S. parliamentary speaker's plan for intensifying efforts for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in fact another indication of the continuation of U.S. officials' hostility and their ignorance of Iran's developments. Open violation in the internal affairs of Iran [as heard] with the aim of toppling the popular system chosen by Iran is glaring evidence of state terrorism. Contrary to the assumptions of the U.S. officials who see the United States as the leader of the world in the post Cold War era, the trend of international policy moves in the direction that allows no country to dictate its own policies to other countries. Anyhow, whatever the reason for the current U.S. provocations, Iran's records should have revealed this point for the United States that the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is emanating from the people of Iran and is constituted on the firm columns of popular support.

The people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are always ready to prove to Gingrich how much his ill-mentality towards Iran is away from reality.

Daily Notes U.S. Aim of Peace Process Domination

LD2810111895 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — One may ask whether the phrase "the peace process," devised and publicized by the American mass media during the past three years is not a travesty of justice, whether it would not be more correct to call it "the process of imposing terms of surrender", a morning daily argued Saturday [28 October].

The bill for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was ratified first by the U.S. Senate,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

93 yes against 5 nays, and later by the U.S. House of Representatives, 374 positive votes against only 37 negative votes, the English-language IRAN NEWS said in its editorial.

The U.S. Administration tried to distance itself from the bill, the daily wrote, but it was formally announced that Clinton did not intend to veto the bill.

"When the United States tried to appear in the role of supporter of a new peace process in the Middle East, it was our declared opinion that peace was not the real objective and that the so-called peace process was only the means of expanding American and Israeli domination in the region and would ultimately mean the humiliation of the Arabs and Muslims," the editorial stressed.

The paper stated that its argument was based on the following considerations:

A) The U.S. actively entered the peace process without the previous slogans at a time when the eastern bloc had collapsed, and the Arab nations, who traditionally relied on the east on international scenes, had lost their support.

"Consequently," it reiterated, "the American leaders reached the conclusion that they should consolidate their levers of power in the Middle Eastern region through an imposed peace before Europe has reached a significant unity and before Russia has had time to recover from the shock of recent developments."

B) To gain undisputed control over the peace process, the U.S. had to eliminate not only its international rivals, it was also necessary to deprive the UN of an effective role on the difference between the Arabs and Israel, it noted.

For the U.S. this was absolutely necessary as according to UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 238, Israel was required to return all occupied territories, including eastern Jerusalem, which according to UN resolutions, was part of the occupied lands, the article added.'

C) During the whole course of human history, impartiality has always been considered as the basic requirement for a mediator, it commented.

"But how could one believe that the U.S. is impartial in the Middle East affair when 93 senators and 374 representatives vote for a bill that is a clear violation of international laws and against the UN Security Council resolutions?" the paper concluded.

Officials Comment on, React to al-Shaqaqi Death

Foreign Ministry Condemns Death

LD2910080595 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry here Sunday [29 October] categorically condemned the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad movement of Palestine.

Palestinian sources announced that al-Shaqaqi has been assassinated Thursday in the capital city of Malta.

Expressing deep regret over the terrorist operation masterminded by the Zionist occupying regime, the foreign ministry castigated the savage killing of Fathi al-Shaqaqi by the Israeli regime.

The foreign ministry's announcement described the operation as a sheer example of state terrorism led by a regime, the supporters of which are attempting to portray themselves, through vast propaganda, as being opposed to terrorism.

The Islamic Republic's foreign ministry condoled with the Muslim nation, particularly the Palestinian Muslims, over the martyrdom of a hero.

The Islamic Jihad movement of Palestine is an organization that has been against the compromise trend with the Zionists as well as the agreements reached between the Israeli regime and Arafat.

Al-Shaqaqi, 44, was born in a Palestinian refugee camp. He was arrested by Zionist forces in 1986 and was expelled to Lebanon in 1988.

He graduated from medical school in 1981 and returned to Gaza on the same year to establish a clinic there.

He was the leader of an Islamic organization which was struggling against Zionist occupation.

His wife and his three children were also driven out of Gaza last July.

Nateq-Nuri Comments on 'Inhuman Act'

LD2910125395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of today's Majles session, Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri spoke about the main domestic and international events, issues, and developments of the day and, condemning the recent decision of the U.S. Senate to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, described it as a great and blatant insult to the sanctities of Islam and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Islamic ummah. He also spoke of the need for the vigilant and intelligent Islamic ummah to expose this evil deed and called on the free countries of the world not to adopt an indifferent stance on this recent U.S. conspiracy.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the history of failed conspiracies by global arrogance under the leadership of the United States in confronting the independence and freedom of the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolution and, noting the approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of the bill allocating $18 million for confrontation against the revolutionary Iranian nation, he described it as a blatant violation of human rights and international regulations and a direct act of interference by the United States in the internal affairs of independent countries. Also noting the mental and moral decline of U.S. officials, he said the approval of such a bill against the Islamic republic and the noble Iranian nation was a kind of international terrorism.

Concluding his remarks, the Majles speaker expressed his congratulations [on the occasion of a martyrdom] and condolences to all the Muslims of the world, especially the resistant Palestinian strugglers, for the tragic martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the head of the Islamic Jihad movement of Palestine, at the hands of Mossad intelligence and terrorist services. Speaking of the bravery and valuable services to the sacred Palestinian jihad of this great martyr, he expressed the hope that the fellow travellers of that indefatigable martyr would not leave this inhuman act unanswered.

Velayati Urges International Action

LD3010093895 Tehran IRNA in English
0826 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday said issues such as human rights, the prevention of the spread of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism only serve as tools with which the United States tries to discredit the countries refusing to submit to its domination.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS published Monday [30 October], he condemned the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the leader of Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement and said, "this crime is ample proof of the fact that Israel is a terrorist state, and we strongly condemn this act and demand that international organizations take appropriate measures in response."

He stressed that the United States openly and totally supports the Zionist entity and its murderous actions, noting that, "this unconditional support is in the form of direct, financial, military, and economic backing, as well as total silence when Israel commits heinous crimes such as assassinating Palestinian and Muslim leaders."

The foreign minister said no resolutions against the Zionist state stand a chance of being approved in the UN Security Council due to America's overt support for Israel.

The United States will use its veto in favor of the Zionist state, he added.

"An example of this blind support is Washington's silence after the violation of international aviation laws by Israel following the recent hijacking of an Iranian plane to occupied Palestine," he underlined.

Had the situation been reversed, the United States and the Zionists would have condemned it and made it into an international incident, Velayati concluded.

Islamic Jihad Pledges 'Revenge'

LD2910230495 Tehran IRNA in English
2220 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 29 (IRNA) — The head of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine in Tehran said on Sunday [29 October] the blood of Martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi will not go to waste and the movement will soon take revenge on the Zionists for the heinous crime.

Abu Jihad told IRNA that al-Shaqaqi was killed in Malta by agents of Mossad, Israel's notorious foreign intelligence service, as he was returning to Damascus from Libya, where he had gone to persuade Colonel Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi to halt the expulsion of Palestinians.

He explained that al-Shaqaqi was assassinated in front of the hotel he was staying in by two Mossad agents who shot him dead by firing five bullets.

Abu Jihad added that there is ample evidence to suggest that Mossad had received orders from leaders of the Zionist regime to commit the crime. Al-Shaqaqi was against having a bodyguard, he added.

Al-Shaqaqi, 44, was born in a refugee camp in Israeli-occupied Gaza and studied medicine in Cairo. He was twice arrested by Zionist forces in 1983 and 1986 and in 1988 was expelled from the occupied land due to his anti-Zionist political activities.

Abu Jihad pointed out that al-Shaqaqi was appointed as the secretary-general of the movement of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine in the first congress of the movement. Al-Shaqaqi was married and had three children.

Explaining the objectives behind the latest Zionist crime, Abu Jihad said the Zionists believed that al-Shaqaqi was the main decisionmaker for the armed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

operations against the usurper regime, thus thinking that his assassination will suffocate the Palestinian opposition against programs resulting from the Oslo Agreement.

Abu Jihad added that the Zionist regime is totally at fault if it thinks that such attempts would weaken the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist usurpers.

In the contrary, he added, al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom would bring the different Islamic fighters on a single platform.

Abu Jihad said that Dr. Ramadhan 'Abdallah was appointed as the new secretary general of the Islamic Movement of Palestine by the movement following the martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

He served notice that all Zionists around the world are henceforth prone to the avenging blows of Abu Jihad members as well as Palestinians and Muslims around the globe.

'Palestine' Committee Condemns 'Martyrdom'

LD2910182495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Revolution of Palestine Support Committee has condemned the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary-general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, at the hands of the elements of the Zionist regime elements. It announced that this terrorist action, responsibility for which has been accepted by the terrorist squads of the Zionist regime, clearly proves the sinister and inhumane nature of that usurper regime toward the world.

The committee has also called on informed and alert public opinion; political, social, and scientific personalities in the various circles of the Islamic and Arab countries; and the international organizations to condemn the recent terrorist action by the Zionist regime and seek a solution to prevent state terrorism by that regime.

IPO Issues Statement on Assassination

NC3010082295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO] has issued a statement condemning the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi by Zionist agents' hands. The statement stresses that the blood of the Palestinians and the great martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi will undoubtedly make the sturdy tree of the intifadah more fruitful and will uproot the usurpers from the region.

Rabin Reportedly Pleased After al-Shaqaqi Death

LD2910095395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestine Islamic Jihad, has been martyred in a terrorist attack. According to agency report, Dr. al-Shaqaqi, who was in Malta, was attacked by a number of armed individual on 26 October.

According to the same report the Zionist regime has accepted responsibility for this terrorist attack. The Zionist regime prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, expressed his pleasure yesterday over the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Ever since the intifadah, the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people, the Palestine Islamic Jihad has inflicted heavy blows on the Zionist regime's military.

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who for years had been struggling to liberate the occupied Palestine, set up a clinic in Gaza in 1981 to help the Muslim people of Palestine, but in 1986 the Zionist regime expelled him from Palestine.

Al-Shaqaqi Death Said To Show Zionist 'Terrorism'

LD2910112495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0448 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Commentary from "On the Periphery of News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard in the news bulletins, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the leader of the Palestine Islamic Jihad group, was shot by the Zionist regime's terrorists and attained martyrdom. According to news agency reports, he was shot by Mossad agents while on his way to the airport to return to Damascus.

In the eyes of Muslims throughout the world, and each and every member of the Palestinian nation, the main culprits in this terrorist crime — beside the Zionist regime — are the main supporters of Tel Aviv who label the legitimate and legal struggle against occupiers, as violence and terrorism. They too contribute in the perpetration of such atrocities.

The arrogant world media depicts Muslim fighters as violent terrorists. These strugglers have been blamed for any bombing incident and indiscriminate assassination while their denials have been silently overlooked. What is not clear is, when the Zionist regime's television [political] analyst explicitly accepts responsibility for the assassination of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, why did the regime not receive any protests by the Americans and the West who are ostensibly against terrorism?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

According to recognized international law, armed struggle against occupying forces in the occupied territories of any country is lawful. Therefore any anti-Zionist operation by Islamic Jihad combatants, or any other fighting group, in the usurped Palestinian territories, is in total compliance with UN laws and the only way to end [such operations] is to end the occupation. Thus once again the true nature of the Zionist regime becomes clear. A regime whose foundations are based on terror, crime and occupation of others' territories cannot portray itself with a civilized and humanitarian face even if it is supported by great world powers. By assassinating Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Zionists have once again revealed to the world the tyrannical and terrorist face of the Tel Aviv regime. This criminal act demonstrates that the regime which has occupied Qods [Jerusalem] does not understand any language but that of force. Any hope of fair negotiations with that regime is futile.

Radio Denounces 'Government-Sponsored Terrorism'

NC3010095595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Oct 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the announcement of the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, a wave of sorrow, accompanied by expressions of hatred and indignation, against the terrorist Tel Aviv regime has engulfed all the occupied territories, Lebanon, and all the Islamic countries.

General mourning has been declared over the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi throughout the occupied territories of Palestine and the business and public centers of al-Khalil [Hebron], Ramallah, Janin, Nabulus, Tul Karm, and Gaza have been closed. The supporters of Islamic Jihad along with every section of the Palestinian people staged marches in Gaza on Sunday [29 October] to protest the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi at the hands of Zionist agents and raised cries of revenge. They set U.S. and Zionist regime flags on fire and called for avenging the sorrowful martyrdom of the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine and continuing the jihad against the terrorist Zionist regime.

According to AFP, the Zionist regime's radio and television announced that Mosad officials had martyred the Islamic Jihad secretary general. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Zionist regime's prime minister, openly expressed his satisfaction at al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom.

The martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi by Zionist regime agents' hands comes as part of the extensive terrorist schemes that aim to eliminate the effective elements in the Islamic Jihad of the oppressed Palestinian nation that are pitted against the Zionist usurpers. Within this framework the Zionist regime—without fear of remonstrations and showing absolute indifference to world public opinion—has martyred Palestinian combatants and has the assassination of Palestinian personalities on its agenda.

While the murder of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, has generated a wave of loathing and abhorrence for the Zionist regime, the international community and the governments that are the so-called champions of human rights and opponents of terrorism are silent over the issue.

With the murder of personalities such as Dr. al-Shaqaqi the Palestinian struggle has suffered a major loss. A more unfortunate loss is the silence and indifference of the international community, which outwardly professes to oppose terrorism and defend human rights.

Every country can present long lists of the Zionist regime's government—sponsored terrorism against humanity. But it is a biased stance on this regime that is ostensibly responsible for their silence over this regime's most blatant and overt inhuman acts. Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi was not the first individual to sacrifice his life in the defense of freedom and the liberation of humanity from the tentacles of the octopus [preceding word in English] of assassination and intimidation by world Zionism. People like him are victims of the hardheartedness that endeavors to impose government-sponsored terrorism on the world in the guise of the defense of human rights and to spread a new kind of aggression against human rights.

Diplomat in Argentina Terms Attack 'Terrorist Act'

LD2910124795 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — "Attack on me was nothing but a terrorist act", said Iran's charge d'affaires to Argentina, Gholam-'Ali Rajabi Yazdi, in his first interview with the morning daily "TEHRAN TIMES" from the hospital.

Rajabi Yazdi who survived a terrorist attack on his life on October 21, thanked God that his condition was improving. He hoped that he will fully recover soon.

While conveying his greetings to his compatriots, he was grateful for the sincere and sympathetic feel-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ings of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i and the Iranian nation and officials.

He said that with the grace of God and special care of the government of Argentina, he was able to sleep for five hours last night.

Having a faint recollection of the terror scence, Yazdi said, "I remember that the terrorist was a short man who shot at me while disembarking from his motorbike."

The special doctor of Argentine President Carlos Menem attended Yazdi on the day of his admission to the hospital and appointed Dr. Pezala and a special team to take care of him.

Yazdi has recovered from a coma and is out of danger, according to doctors here. He has been transferred from the coronary care unit (CCU) to the regular ward and has begun to take food for the first time since the attack.

According to his doctor, Yazdi's condition is normal and he is out of danger. He recommended, however, that he should not put pressure on his memory or speak much.

Official to Argentina After Assassination Attempt

LD2910120495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry official left for Argentina to investigate the recent terrorist act by Zionist agents in their unsuccessful attempt against the life of Iran's charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires. A group of experts is accompanying our country's general director for American affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Iran's ambassador to Uruguay has called for a serious investigation into the recent terrorist act by the Zionist regime in Buenos Aires.

Iran's ambassador in Buenos Aires, Rajabi Yazdi, was attacked on 21 October by Zionist agents and was severely wounded. Khaney Hoy claimed responsibility for that attack in a telephone message to the United Press office in New York.

The Zionist daily, JERUSALEM POST, wrote that the assassination attempt against Iran's charge d'affaires was an action by Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Nateq-Nuri Said Optimistic on Ties With Europe

LD3010134195 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — The Majles speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has expressed optimism on the future relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Europe, saying that all necessary grounds exist for Irano- European cooperation. The speaker in an interview with the English- language daily 'IRAN NEWS' printed on Monday [30 October] said, "Iran and European countries may join hands for closer cooperation in political fields."

He was talking at Mehrabad International Airport prior to his departure for his seven-day three-nation tour which will take him to Austria, Ireland and Qatar. "Many misunderstandings, currently existing between Europe and Iran, could be removed through political cooperation," Nateq-Nuri noted. "Ambiguities in bilateral relations could be removed when face-to-face talks are held between the two partners," the speaker said. "The removal of ambiguities may pave the way for sincere and solid reciprocal relations between countries," he said.

Underlining the importance of his European visit, Nateq-Nuri said, "We already have economic ties with European countries and the current tour will help pave the way for a strong European presence in the 2nd 5-year plan in Iran."

"We should be able to join hands with Europe for join investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran," Nateq-Nuri said.

In reply to a question, Nateq-Nuri brushed aside the U.S. pressure on Europe for an economic and trade embargo on Iran and said, "Europe has already proved that it acts independently of Washington."

He was referring to a call made by President Bill Clinton last June for a trade and economic ban on Iran. Clinton also appealed to its European allies to follow suit but received a negative response from them. "We have specific examples of active cooperation with European countries," the Majles speaker said and singled out an agreement signed by the French company, Total, for an offshore oil exploration project in the Persian Gulf. The original contract for the offshore oil project was signed by CONOCO, an American company, which bowed before Clinton pressure and abandoned the contract.

"My official visit to Europe reflects a healthy relation between Iran and Europe and also shows that Europe acts independently of the U.S. for its relations with other countries," Nateq-Nuri pointed out.

"The Europeans are saying to the United States that they do not want a guardian and will act independently," he said.

Nateq-Nuri is heading a high-level Iranian delegation which includes the Minister of Roads and Transportation Akbar Torkan, Minister of Industries Mohammad

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Reza Nematzadeh, Minister of Education Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi.

A number of Majles deputies and senior officials from various ministries are also accompanying the speaker.

Student Union Calls For Nationwide 4 Nov Rallies

LD2810212995 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 28 (IRNA) — The Union of Muslim Students Associations of College Students and Alumni of Iranian colleges and universities in a communique on Saturday [28 October] called on students nationwide to participate in November fourth rallies in towns and cities in Iran on the occasion of Students Day.

November fourth, commonly referred to as Students Day marks the anniversary of students rallying in front of Tehran University on that day in 1978 as well as the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's exile from Iran by the ex-shah in 1963, and the anniversary of the seizure of the compounds of the former U.S. Embassy (U.S. den of spies) in Tehran by a group of Muslim students devoted to Imam Khomeyni and commonly described as Muslim students following the Imam's line.

The annual nationwide rallies of November 4th is mainly an occasion for outcries of public anger against the United States and its behavior with Iran both before and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2710114795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This week's Friday prayers in Tehran - which coincided with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the worthy daughter of the Prophet, Her Holiness Fatima Zahra, God's blessing be upon her - were led by Ayatollah Jannati by the side of the pure bodies of the martyrs of the eight-year holy defense war.

Tehran's interim Friday Imam delivered an explanation of the dimensions of the personality of the immaculate Fatima Zahra, God's blessing be upon her, in his first sermon and elaborated on the role of Her Holiness in preserving and propagating the Mohammedan principles.

In the course of his sermons, Ayatollah Jannati considered the marring of Islamic and revolutionary principles and the raising of divisive arguments under the conditions where the community is in need of unity to be unforgivable sins and stressed the need for the selection of a proper method for propagating virtue and prohibiting vice.

The Exalted Leader's representative for Bosnian affairs stressed the territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia, and described the drawing up of a specific strategy for establishing peace and security in that country as vital. He called on Islamic states to use all their efforts for neutralizing American and European interventions in Bosnia and freeing the occupied Bosnian territory from Serb hands.

Tehran's interim Friday Prayer Imam referred to the 50th anniversary of the UN and described the domination of the big powers over that organization and the UN's negligence in administering justice in the case of the oppressed nations of the world as unjustifiable. He called for the structure of that international institution to be reformed.

Demands Justice for Bosnian Muslims

LD2710211395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, secretary of the Council of Guardians and representative of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i in Bosnia-Herzegovina affairs, on 27 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Today there are a number of issues which I ought to address and I have in fact many things to talk about. However, as I do not wish to keep you here too long, I will deal with these issues very briefly. [passage omitted]

An issue which I must refer to is my recent trip to Bosnia and my visit to the liberated town of Bihac which had been under siege for a total of 1,000 days. That is to say that the town was encircled by Serb forces and the inhabitants were not able to leave the town without risking their lives.

You can imagine what happens to a population whose links with the outside world are completely cut off. Of course, the area is very green and leafy and land there is rich and can be cultivated but how can one start farms without having access to the necessary means? [passage omitted]

Praise be to God, the area has now been liberated and many people are currently living there. Many of the refugees have returned and many others are on their way back. Life, in short, has returned to normal. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

same is happening in many other areas in the wake of the cease-fire agreement.

Of course, the people of Bihac need a lot of help to revive their farming activities. They also need oil and during our visit we tried to find a way whereby they could be given some fuel to enable them to cultivate their crops during the fall. However, these people have numerous other problems

Another problem is what will happen after the cease-fire is established. The establishment of a cease-fire does not represent an improvement in the situation. It represents the fact that either there are no more killings or the killings have been reduced to a minimum and the cease-fire is occasionally violated. The issue still does not end there and there are demands: The Muslims want their territory back. Much of the Muslim territory has been seized and is now in the hands of the enemy. The enemy wants still more and claims more land. Who then can resolve this issue? How can the issue be resolved? This is not a simple task. Various policies have been imposed there [in former Yugoslavia]. Russia interferes, the United States interferes, and Europe interferes. All of them are involved. The Islamic countries, perforce, have some expectations. They have something to say even though they did not intervene as they should have done. The future is ambiguous and there is concern. What needs to be emphasized is that Bosnia should remain as an independent country, as it was, and its territorial integrity should be maintained. The occupied territories should be liberated and the prisoners released. This must be pursued. However, who should do this? Who cares about the Muslims?

Non-Islamic countries naturally do not care about the Muslims but they sympathize with their [the Muslims'] opponents and enemies. They show a lack of sympathy toward the Muslims but the Islamic countries should support them [the Muslims]. I say this categorically and it is not a claim, I have said it in other places and in Bosnia also and it has been acknowledged by all, that the only country which rendered vital assistance to them and brought about their deliverance, so that the enemy could not no longer usurp their territory, is our Islamic country led by the beloved great leader. [crowd chants approval] Our great leader bravely gave the necessary instructions from the early days and the government implemented the instructions. The people and various foundations cooperated. Very good cooperation has been carried out. Others have also assisted but that could not be compared with our assistance. In any case, although they [Islamic countries] did not do anything in other dimensions, in future they should take seriously entering the political dimension. The Islamic countries should support them [the Bosnian people]. This is a definite right. There were territories under the control of the Bosnian Government. These lands have been occupied and they must be returned to them. There is no arguments over this. That is a right that should be followed up in the international forums and raised in political circles. It should be heard everywhere. It is expected of all the Islamic countries to follow up the issue and not allow any of the Muslims' rights to be trampled on. [passage omitted]

There is another point, which is a substantial one and I will follow it up in later sermons if I can, God willing. There are certain points which are being raised nowadays. Some are about the preparations for the elections and have political connotations, unless they wish to give it other connotations. It is the issue of freedom. About the right to object and criticize and so forth. In this case I think we should accept that, in any case, provided he has no axe to grind, has no personal or criminal motives, and does not wish to take advantage, anybody has the right, and not only the right but also the duty, to voice his objection,if he sees any problems or faults. If he doesn't, he is guilty of treason. It is the same as the issue of prescribing virtue and proscribing vice; it is a matter of caring and giving advice to Muslims and it is a duty for all Muslims. [passage omitted]

To choose the method is an issue in itself. One might have something justified to say but by saying it in a certain way do more harm than good. [passage omitted]

Another point is about raising certain matters and using them as a means to create a rift in a society which is at present standing against the United States and has a greater need for unity of expression, drinking water, and vital necessities. That is an unforgivable sin. Or to question Islam's absolute principles or distort the vital issues and absolute principles of the revolution would also be unforgivable. [passage omitted]

God almighty was very kind to us. He rewarded us for the hardships we had suffered by granting us an entirely popular and Islamic government. An Islamic government which tries to implement Islamic rules and regulations as far as it can. However, we are still quite distanced from an all-embracing Islam whose rules should be implemented in all aspects of life. But what we expect is that the government should try to implement Islamic rules and regulations with all its power. Such a government was established and people started to live together in a brotherly fashion. Unanimity was established thanks to the leadership and we have reached where we are today. Now, in such circumstances, everyone knows that our enemies have not relaxed. They show their hostility in any way possible and in any way they can.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We see how Clinton, even during the 50th UN Anniversary made a protest against Iran. [I mean] the organization which should apologize and repent for its negligence toward the oppressed, it should gird its loins to compensate its past negligence. Now, we have its 50th anniversary which is a chance for a review: The right of veto should go and unjustified pressure and force should be questioned. It is time for its conditions to be changed after 50 years. Well, that did not happen and will not happen. What I mean is that he [Clinton] could not restrain himself and made a protest against Iran.

We also see how an attempt was made against the life of an Iranian representative in Argentina and it is quite clear, everyone knows this, that the Zionists were behind it but no one says a word nor accuses them of violating human rights. However, if we so much as cast a cross look at them, they accuse us of human rights violations. Everyone is aware of these facts. Everyone is also aware of domestic problems. Now, in such a situation, the raising under any name some issues which create discord and become issues for the enemy to exploit and grist to the mill of foreign propaganda blowhards is indeed treason against this nation. This cannot be disputed; no doubt about that. Nowhere in the world allows such acts of treason. If we think that everyone in the world is free to say what they like we are mistaken. Do they allow anyone in the United States, which is the altar for such people, such troublemakers, to question the Constitution? To mock or reject the principles of the Constitution? They have a Constitution and everyone has accepted it. It should be respected. Do they allow anyone to criticize or question democracy, to which they hypocritically adhere? To say that democracy is false or that it should not exist? Do they allow that?

Someone writes a book outside France in which the writer supports the people of Algeria but the book is banned in France. They stop imports of the book so that no one can read it. Nowhere and no country allows what some call freedom but is in fact anarchy. No country interested in its own survival and values would allow anyone to say anything that he or she would like or to write it. Some people now make certain claims in this regard here in Iran. [passage omitted]

Another point: When the people had everything of their's threatened: Where were those who raise such issues? where were they on the 15th of Khordad [5 June 1963 uprising which resulted in Khomeyni's eventual exile]? where were they when the students were being killed in this very university and becoming martyrs? and where were they on the 13th of Aban [4 November — actual date of Khomeyni's exile as well as the date of occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran]? I stress here and now that celebrations for 4 November must be conducted with the greatest possible grandeur. It must be declared that our government, our nation, our faithful are unanimous: and [their unanimity is] mainly on this: the United States has no right to intervene in the affairs of our country and other countries. [crowd chants: "God is Great," "Death to the hypocrites," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] It must be so. [referring to the chants] Please allow me, as there is not much time left.

Of course we do not deny that there are some here and there who strongly wish the United States to return and wish to capitulate. We do not deny that but the bulk of the people do not think like that and our officials are not like that. That lesson must be reiterated during the 4 November celebrations. Well, I recommend that the students, who have greater rights and greater distinction in this issue, and all the people take part in the 4 November programs. [passage omitted]

Another point: [addressing the critics:] If you are in earnest let me tell you what you should do. Visit the homes of those families who are all living in a basement. See to their needs. Listening to the words of foreigners by night and telling others by day is no service to the people. Why don't you help those homeless ones; those who are being told by landlords that they must pay so much more or get out; and those who do not know where to get their rent or where to get their livelihood? Why do you neglect them? Why do you overlook those young men who wish to marry but can't afford it and are forced toward corruption or to live in great pain? Why don't you think of them? Are you not from this country? Are you not human? Is human conscience dead in you? Go tell those nonbeliever rich and influential ones to come and see such people's needs; to come and build houses; give marriage loans; give charity; and sell your superfluous goods to give the proceeds to those paupers. [passage omitted] What did you do for the Bosnians? There are those with bodies full of shrapnel [from the Iran-Iraq war] who are serving there. [passage omitted]

Right now we need to rebuild the country; we need to prevent excess and waste; we need to see to the oppressed, the deprived and the needy; we need to help those Muslims in the world who are suffering under the enemies' shelling, whether it be in Bosnia, Palestine, Tajikistan, Kashmir, or elsewhere. Do you not feel for them?

I won't say any more. There is so much pain that if one does not say even this little about it then one's heart would burst. It is better to think about the people and not think about what to say to please others and gain their praise. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rafsanjani Meets Intelligence Ministry Officials

LD3010131995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting today with Intelligence Ministry officials and a number of senior experts on human intelligence [ettela'at-e mardomi], President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: At no point in history has Iran been the object of as much hatred and spite as now from world powers. The current vast and extensive volume of reconstruction is also unprecedented in the history of Iran.

He stressed: Despite its full political independence, adherence to Islamic ideals and values, and the vast scale of the enemies' conspiracies, the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a good level of security in comparison with many countries of the world, and the implementation of the biggest possible technical and economic projects in the country, such as the Karkheh Dam and other development projects, especially in border regions, reveal this important point.

The president added: This security is a result of the vigilance of all the people and the indefatigable efforts of the country's security and law enforcement forces, including the Intelligence Ministry.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined the steadfastness of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world. He said: After failing in its attempts to inflict blows through political and military means, the United States intended to harm Iran through economic channels. However, with the decisive implementation of the policy for stabilizing the exchange rate and making infrastructural investment and technical and industrial progress, which are an indication of the country's strong economic foundation, the United States has been defeated again in its latest conspiracy.

The president expressed satisfaction at the relentless efforts of the unknown soldiers of the Intelligence Ministry to maintain and consolidate the country's security. Noting the importance of precision and care in obtaining and transferring correct information to officials — as one of the important tasks undertaken by that ministry toward maintaining and increasing mutual confidence and trust — he said: Today, Iran's all-sided confrontation with the United States is technical, economic, political, scientific, and cultural. Therefore, all the system's concerns must be taken into account in relation to intelligence and security activities and views should be expressed on various issues, bearing in mind all the interests of the country and with a comprehensive outlook. He stressed: Efforts must be made to safeguard the Islamic system in all these respects.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of increasing information exchanges and better use by officials of the results of the Intelligence Ministry's activities as a way of making advances and obtaining better results in decision-making.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Intelligence Ministry's deputy in charge of human intelligence presented a report about his department's activities to confront people who disrupt the society's security and safeguard the sacred values of the Islamic system in the face of the conspiracies of domestic and foreign enemies.

Khamene'i Addresses Role of Television, Music

LD3010141795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, held a meeting this morning with the managers and officials in charge of different sections of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He described the television as a university which teaches, directs, and guides society. He considered that the main duty of the Voice and Vision [radio and television of the Islamic Republic of Iran] is to be the fountainhead of the whole spectrum of society's thoughts on the basis of the clear line laid down by religion and politics.

At the meeting, the esteemed leader praised the progress made by the Voice and Vision in different fields. He said: Thanks to the efforts that have been made, the television's programs are today lively and cheerful, and they have undergone fundamental changes compared to the past both in terms of the extensive topics they cover and also in terms of attracting viewers. I am less apprehensive now because of the kind of attention that the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran is paying to the issues of the revolution, the holy imam [Khomeyni], the holy defense of the Iranian nation, and the chief issues concerning the country.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considered that the radio and television in Iran were the language [zaban; also means tongue] of the Islamic system. He said: In Islamic Iran, the Voice and Vision bears a lot of responsibility. Under current circumstances in the world when people's natural tendencies are toward religion and faith, Islam's enemies are engaged in a blatant, aggressive, and manipulative onslaught against the principle of religiousness. The aim of this onslaught is to promote lack of commitment, irreligiousness, and decadence in society. Attacking the principle of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

religiousness, especially the religion of Islam and in particular, Shiism as a set of principles, is among the plans being carried out by the enemies. And in this world struggle, the Voice and Vision acts as an important complex standing in the frontline of the struggle.

The eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution praised the fact that the radio and television are keeping alive the values of Islam and revolution. He said: The Vision is a guide, pace-setter, and teacher and it was the late holy imam —God's peace be upon him — who wisely likened the Voice and Vision to a university, on the basis of which its staff should identify a clear line on religion and politics and guide the spectrum of the country's thoughts toward that line.

The esteemed leader said that the main expectation from the radio and television is that they should elevate culture and guide society's opinion in general on religion and politics. He said: The officials of this important institution should explain the lofty ideas of religion, using methods which only television can. They should also fulfil their important and determining mission with regard to the country's principled policies, the Islamic system, and the compatibility of religion with changes occurring in society, which is necessary for a government. His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the need for the Islamic Republic of Iran's Vision to match program contents with society's talents such as literature, poetry, and theater. He said: Music should be in the service of humanity's lofty objectives and incline humanity toward goodness. Music is an art and this divine creation should be used to the advantage of people and in benefiting from music, we should have confidence in the integrity and correctness of the path we are following.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i noted that it is necessary to make the television's programs compatible with the indigenous culture and language. He then concluded by stressing the need for strong confrontation with the promotion of ostentatiousness and consumerism through the television's programs.

Dr. 'Ali Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision, addressed the gathering before the eminent leader. He outlined the main policies of the organization which are aimed at an all-round expansion of the television's programs to suit the needs of viewers. He said that the broadcast of live programs in the television takes a clear stance toward the path of Islamic and revolutionary values. He also talked about investment aimed at producing numerous serials, doubling production of programs in the Voice and Vision's provincial centers, sharing the same thoughts with specialists at universities and seminaries, and the growth in the level of supervision over the television's programs.

Pakistan

Leghari Outlines Domestic, Foreign Policies

BK2910145595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0545 GMT 29 Oct 95

[Address by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari to the joint session of Parliament from the National Assembly Hall in Islamabad — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker and honorable members of parliament: There is God's commandment which goes: Allah, the most gracious, is the sole revered being who has taught the Koran. It is He who has created man and taught him how to speak. It is He who created a natural system under which the sun and the moon, all follow their exactly computed courses; the herbs and the trees, all bow before Him in adoration. He raised the firmament high and has set up the balance of justice. So, in order that you may not transgress this balance, you should correctly judge and weigh every issue, following the process of justice and truth. There must not be any excess on your part. Do not show any unfairness in the administration of justice. He has created earth for all the creatures. See and behold! The earth bears several kinds of fruits. There are datepalms and several kinds of other plants which contain both stalks and grains. Now, tell oh creatures — genii and human beings — which of the blessings, favors, and gifts of your Lord, the provider, will you deny!

Pakistan is the greatest of all the numerous favors and blessings bestowed by the Almighty God. It is the most valuable gift among all His favors, which has been entrusted to the Muslims of the Indian Subcontinent. Its destiny is a sacred trust. The people of Pakistan, by exercising their collective right to election, have bestowed an honor on the elected Advisory Council — comprising the president, the Senate, and the National Assembly — to be the guarantor of the security of the country. It is my privilege for the second time in my capacity as president of Pakistan to present before you an appraisal of the [government's] performance under the law and the Constitution. [applause]

Today, as we approach nearly half a century of our independence and sovereignty, we as a nation are faced with many difficulties and challenges. The Indian Government and its forces have been making the Kashmiris the target of their repression and terror by creating the worst example of human rights violations in Kashmir and have been depriving them of the right to exercise their right to a plebiscite through brutal

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

savagery in utter defiance of the UN decision. The law and order situation in Karachi continues to be a cause for concern as usual, creating obstacles in the way of economic development. The rate of inflation is still at an unacceptable level, and housewives and the general public are groaning and complaining about the rise in prices [of commodities]. There is a lack of harmony between the ruling and the opposition parties and the gulf of differences between the ruling and the opposition parties continues to exist as usual, and this is one of the reasons why the legislature has not been able to achieve its legislative target. It is not my intention to gloss over any of these problems, but, at the same time, I would also not want to point out only negative factors, and not mention anything about the positive results. In spite of these problems, there is no cause for any despondency. God commands: Despair not the blessings of Allah. Our resources are limited and all these problems cannot be resolved at once; but I have full faith in the Almighty God that He will guide us, so that we can maintain our national unity to the greatest extent possible, and continue our march toward peace and prosperity. [applause] In this context, the efforts of our hard-working people will not prove fruitless in any way.

Realizing the gravity of the nearly decade-old complex problem of Karachi, the government has initiated talks with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] to resolve it in a spirit of mutual understanding by eliminating terrorism. I assure you all that the government is committed to finding a just solution to this problem, but it should be fully kept in mind that violence and terrorism to achieve political and economic objectives will not be tolerated. [applause] It is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of its citizens. Violence and terrorism in a beautiful city like Karachi is rendering the process of economic development fruitless. I call upon all parties to renounce violence and try to find a political solution by extending their cooperation to the government. The law enforcement agencies should also ensure full protection to the human and legal rights of all the people in their fight against violence. They should ensure that innocent citizens are not harassed. I hope that the MQM leadership will fulfill the trust reposed in it by its supporters by resuming the negotiations [with the government]. Karachi is a national problem, and I invite the opposition to adopt a constructive approach toward finding a solution to this issue. [applause]

Economic performance in the last year has been mixed. Inflation remains to be controlled, but the growth rate of gross domestic product of the economy is improving. The fiscal and monetary policies are being strengthened, so that the rate of inflation can be reduced to less than 10 percent in the current year. The government understands that the potential for economic growth in Pakistan is much higher, especially in the industrial sector. In this context, steps have been taken to achieve better results in the textile sector. A noteworthy aspect of economic reforms on the external front is the rapid growth in exports, resulting in a substantial increase in our foreign exchange reserves last year. However, lately, there have been signs of some decline in the reserves. This situation reflects the impact of both the ongoing economic reforms and the remaining imbalance in the national economy. The most important factor contributing to this imbalance is the fiscal deficit which is a major economic problem for the nation. The government should take steps to bring down this deficit. On the expenditure side, there are certain basic constraints — structural rigidities — and, at the same time, major requirements of development programs need to be met. Measures are needed to ensure that financial institutions, public corporations, and provincial governments remain within their budgetary limits and improve their performance. Improvement in the functioning of the government and reasonable control over expenditures will enable the country to undertake a march toward progress in the right direction and to eliminate corruption. The government should pay attention to measures to end corruption at all levels of society [applause] and to eliminate negative tendencies that have permeated our society.

Heavy reliance on customs revenue and a slower than expected growth in sales tax and income tax revenues in the past prevented the desired reduction in tariffs. There is an imperative need to continue the tax reform process. It is the duty of the government not to succumb to the pressure of the vested interests who enjoyed undue privileges in the past. The government should continue with its economic reforms. Reversal of economic reforms will deprive the country of the benefits of the measures already taken, and will seriously erode the credibility of the government's commitment to the reform process. We should continue to endeavor to create social conditions based on justice. Economic incentives should be given in a manner that the development of any one sector does not prove harmful to the other. We should strive to reduce the economic burden on the common consumer. Our industrial and business community needs to focus more on improving its productivity than on relying on windfall incentives from government policy.

Enforcement of a just system that places an equal tax burden on all sectors is needed for the success of the taxation system. Every sector must bear its due share of the tax burden. It is our collective responsibility to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

willingly pay our dues for services that the government provides. Equally, it is the government's responsibility to spend the resources at its disposal prudently and wisely.

Stability in the value of the Pakistani rupee is crucial for maintaining our competitiveness in export markets. This is essential for creating a climate in which investment, incentives, and justice will go hand in hand. The State Bank of Pakistan must improve its monetary management to help reduce inflation. Stability in the banking system is imperative for the growth of our economy. The private sector has to play a leading role in this regard. Banking supervision and controls should be strengthened further through better implementation of existing rules.

Agriculture remains an important barometer of the health of our national economy. Agricultural output grew by 5 percent last year as a result of increased production of wheat, basmati rice, and sugarcane. There are signs of a good cotton crop in the coming months. These are considerable achievements which indicate that the government has been successful in ensuring a timely and adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs to farmers at reasonable prices. Output is expected to increase further as a result of enhanced credit to small farmers, an increased supply of fertilizer, and rapid mechanization under the government's Awami Tractors Scheme. Water availability has increased and the stage is set for continued growth in the agriculture sector. Let us pray to God that these efforts are not offset by bad weather or floods which devastated 7,000 villages and 1.4 million acres of crop land last year.

The government's energy policy has attracted large foreign investment which is expected to help alleviate the energy shortage in the country. An Engineering Development Board has been established, and fiscal concessions have been announced for engineering goods manufacturing factories. For the first time, a national mineral policy has been prepared in consultation with provincial governments to boost mineral production. During the past two years, 11,000 villages were provided with electricity, and 240 new cities and towns were supplied with natural gas. Approximately 500,000 new consumers were given gas connections. Oil and gas exploration was intensified to meet the future needs of the country. Work has been started on the Ghazi Barotha hydroelectric power project and will, God willing, be completed by the year 2000; the Chashma hydroelectric project will be completed by 1998. Private sector investment in the thermal and hydroelectric power will play a central role in increasing the electricity generating capacity. Work is continuing in full swing on the Hub Power Project in the private sector, and several other major projects have been initiated. All these measures together with prudent macroeconomic management are expected to accelerate the growth of the gross domestic product to over 6.5 percent this year.

The Federal Government is in the process of implementing a National Water Resources Development Program in consultation with provincial governments. The program comprises irrigation, drainage, and flood control projects which will benefit 10 million acres of valuable agricultural land. Apart from this, an accelerated program covering on-farm water management, drainage, improvement in the canal system, and utilization of runoff waters of hill torrents has also been initiated. These programs are expected to increase our gross domestic product significantly.

The government's commitment to education is reflected in the sharp increase in the annual budget for education since 1993. The government has also introduced a bill to ensure that at least 3 percent of the gross national product is spent on education by the year 2000. We need to do much more despite constraints on our resources. In this regard, we have to create a national movement to achieve a 100 percent literacy rate in our generation. We will not be able to take our place in the ranks of developed societies until we have educated all our people. At the same time, we should produce an educated generation keeping in mind the supply and demand situation. While allocating funds for the education sector, we must ensure a progressive shift of emphasis toward vocational and technical institutions. We also need to devote a larger percentage of the education budget toward research institutions and universities. The holy Koran says: Read in the name of your Lord who created. We need an educational system in which there is a blend of modern scientific and religious subjects so that when our students become doctors, engineers, professors, bureaucrats, and technocrats, they must also turn out to be good human beings, true Muslims, and loyal, patriotic citizens of Pakistan. The policies and programs of our television, radio, and national media should strengthen our moral, spiritual, and social values in such a way, as to enable our people to protect themselves from a cultural invasion from abroad.

There is room for improvement in relations between the government and the business community. I want to make it clear to the leaders of our industry and trade that whatever their political affiliations may be, the government is as much concerned as they are about the growth of trade and industry. At the same time, the government must take further steps to win the confidence and cooperation of the business community

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and to continue consultations with various chambers and trade organizations on a regular basis. More importantly, there must be an assurance of long-term stability of economic, fiscal, social, and labor policies to lay the foundation for sustained growth.

The government's commitment to bring about a dramatic improvement in the status of women in Pakistan is unwavering. As a result of policies prepared by the government, women are gradually beginning to play their due role in national development. The large-scale appointment of women health visitors is contributing significantly to education, health care, and population welfare programs. The rights and status of women in Islam were forcefully projected at international conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen, and Beijing. The government also continues to strive for the reintroduction of reserved seats for women in the National and Provincial Assemblies.

Drug abuse and trafficking continues to pose a threat to our society. Government efforts in interdicting drug traffickers have been fairly successful, and a number of major drug barons have been brought to justice. Law enforcement agencies have also stepped up measures to stop illegal trade in weapons, which exacerbate the problems of terrorism and crimes in Pakistan. However, we still have a long way to go before we can resolve these problems inherited from the days of dictatorship.

Our environment is being very adversely affected due to a growth in urban population, industrialization, increasing city traffic congestion, salinity and water logging in rural areas, and deforestation. Government and nongovernment organizations are playing a commendable role in awakening people's consciousness to protect the environment. For the first time, people and private institutions, boy scouts, girl guides, and nongovernment organizations and people in the tens of thousands participated in government tree plantation drives. Steps have also been taken to control pollution in selected areas. The government is launching a massive program to prevent soil degradation and to improve it through biotechnology. The widest possible participation of the people is imperative for the success of all these steps. We should remember that sovereignty over Pakistan's land, sea and air rests in Almighty Allah, and the work that we do to protect and preserve the environment is the fulfillment of the sacred trust reposed in us by the Almighty Allah.

Barring a few points, manifestos of the ruling party and the opposition are nearly same. I have repeatedly emphasized that it will be in the country's interest for all of us to promote a national consensus together. [applause] There is a need for a unanimous policy at the national level on issues like Kashmir, national defense, privatization, use and distribution of water resources, women's representation, and accountability. The people of Pakistan are justifiably entitled to expect their political leaders to rise above personal animosities and express their mutual opinions on national affairs.

There is a Koranic verse: Amongst you, there should be a group of people who invite to all that is good, enjoin what is right — meaning, who pass legislations for the good of society; and forbid what is wrong — meaning, pass legislations that stop vice and wickedness in their tracks. They are the ones who will attain felicity.

Do not be like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputes even after receiving clear signs from God. There is a dreadful penalty for such people.

Last year, the National Assembly passed 33 bills, while the Senate passed 18 bills. This year nine acts of parliament have been enacted. Other than this, 29 bills are under consideration by the National Assembly, and 49 bills are pending before various committees. As president of Pakistan, I am a part of Parliament. But due to the evident slow-down in the passage of legislations, I had to issue many ordinances. This is an unhappy development. I would like to request the National Assembly speaker and the Senate chairman to coordinate with the government and the Opposition with a view to speed up legislative work. This effort would mark the first step of the work I had mentioned last year of establishing conventions to improve the functioning of the parliamentary system.

At the international level, the Kashmir problem is at the top of the government's list of priorities. The government has been successful in apprising the international community and increasing its concern regarding repression against the Kashmiri people and denial of their rights by the Indian occupation forces. [applause] As a result of our efforts, Islamic states have set up a new contact group on the Kashmir problem, and for the first time the Kashmir All Parties Hurriyat Conference was given a chance to present its stand at the Organization of Islamic Conference and other international organizations. We also raised the Kashmir problem during bilateral contacts with friendly countries. This is a burning international issue. Other than the efforts of prime minister and her government, the role played in this connection by the Kashmir Committee of the National Assembly is also commendable. [applause] The Kashmir problem is an important national matter. I hope that during the next year the distinguished members of the opposition together with their leader will ensure the suc-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

cess of the policy regarding Kashmir by joining in the government's efforts.

Important successes have been achieved in bilateral relations with the United States. The U.S. Government has admitted at the highest level that the Pressler Amendment is an unjust legislation, and Pakistan obtained this U.S. admission without compromising in any manner its peaceful nuclear program. [applause] Endorsement of the Brown Amendment reflects this fact.//

We have been quite successful in making our principled and just stand appreciated that the issue of proliferation of nuclear weapons cannot be solved in isolation of our security concerns. India's nuclear and missile program, and the number of its armed forces pose a threat to the stability of this whole region.

The situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern for us. We spared no efforts in assisting Afghan brothers at every stage in their fight against Soviet aggression. We have fully supported the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference to bring peace to this unfortunate land. Every Pakistani was, therefore, pained and shocked by the unwarranted attack on our embassy in Kabul. Despite this we are strictly committed to our policy of neutrality [toward Afghanistan]. Without interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs, we are endeavoring to solve the Afghan problem taking into account interests of different factions and the Afghan people.

Our relations with China continue to grow stronger and stronger. We are cooperating with each other in all fields, and we share identical views on many matters of mutual concern.

We also enjoy excellent relations with Iran and Turkey.

Our relations with India cannot improve until the Kashmir problem is resolved.

We are further strengthening our relations with fraternal Central Asian states and traditional friends and allies in the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia.

National defense is the government's top priority. As the supreme commander of the Pakistan Armed Forces, I want to assure you that our armed forces are always ready to discharge their constitutional duty of defending Pakistan's territorial integrity. [applause] Remaining within the constraints of national resources, we will, god willing, make the Pakistan Armed Forces capable of fully meeting aggression from any quarter. [applause] Let me also say that the Pakistan Armed Forces are a highly organized institution which has nothing to do with politics and that the armed forces are loyal to the Government of Pakistan established under constitutional provisions. [applause]

Last year, the armed forces greatly assisted the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order, and in protecting the life and property of people in calamity-hit areas. Pakistan's Armed Forces have played an important role in UN peacekeeping operations. [applause]

We enjoy an honorable and rightful status among the community of nations because we abide by the UN charter as a democratic, moderate and tolerant Islamic state. It is our constitutional obligation under the Objective Resolution to establish a state wherein the Islamic principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance, and social justice are fully observed; wherein independence of the judiciary is fully secured; wherein every citizen is guaranteed fundamental rights including equality before the law, and social, economic and political justice, and freedom of expression and belief. We have to eliminate all kinds of exploitation, and gradually implement the fundamental principle of the right to work according to one's ability. Let us resolve today that we will jointly move forward to achieve these objectives for which Pakistan was founded.

Long live Pakistan.

India Reportedly Decides To Resume Missile Program

BK2810094895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] India has decided to continue its missile program, including the production of medium-range Agni missiles and the surface-to-surface Prithvi missiles. Wasim Khalid, Radio Pakistan's New Delhi Representative, citing Indian newspaper reports states that the work on further experiments on Agni missiles will be commenced soon, whereas the installation of Prithvi missiles along the western borders is only a matter of time. This program was shelved due to U.S. pressure. However, after the adoption of the Brown amendment that paves the way for providing U.S. weapons to Pakistan, India has decided to restart this missile program. Expressing indignation over India's missile program, U.S. authorities have described it as a violation of the agreement with the Missile Technology Control Regime.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kabul Said Preparing To Send 'Subversive Elements'

BK2710134995 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 27 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar — It has been learned from informed sources that a group of 150 subversive elements have completed their three-month training in acts of terrorism and subversion in Kabul under the supervision of the Afghan Government. These subversives will be divided into 30 groups of five each and sent into Pakistan after 1 November to carry out bomb explosions and incidents of subversion and terrorism inside Pakistan. The raiding squads of the Khyber armed constabulary under the supervision of Syed Mujibur Rahman, the assistant political agent of Landi Kotal, and Tariq Masti Khan, the revenue collector of Towr Kham, have intensified surveillance and checking activities to arrest subversives on the Pakistan-Afghan border at Towr Kham. During a check on Thursday [26 October], the raiding squads of the Khyber armed constabulary arrested 40 foreign suspects while they were trying to sneak into Pakistan from Afghanistan after crossing the border at Towr Kham. The arrested foreign suspects include five Sikhs — Awtar Singh, Man Singh, Swaran Singh, Kartar Singh, and Ranjit Singh — and 35 Afghan nationals. The five Sikhs and 11 Afghan nationals have been handed over to the Joint Interrogation Team [preceding three words in English] for further interrogation.

Meanwhile, an Afghan subversive, Hamidollah, was seriously injured when a bomb exploded in his hand on Wednesday. The bomb went off while he was trying to blow up the Telegraph Office in Peshawar to cause panic and destruction in the city. The injured subversive, who had come to Pakistan from Afghanistan only a day ago, has been admitted to a hospital, and a strict watch is being maintained on him. In the meantime, a person named Gula Khan was seriously injured in a bomb blast at village Tangru Kale on the outskirts of Khanmai Charsadda. A bomb was thrown at the house of an Afghan refugee, Zulme, at village Bahadur Kale on the outskirts of Peshawar at night to kill all the members of his family, but, fortunately, the bomb did not explode. In village Regi on the outskirts of Peshawar, Saifur Rahman, Mama Gul, and Seyyeda Gul threw a bomb at the residence of Dilawar Khan to destroy his house and to kill all the members of his family. The bomb went off causing a loud explosion which created terror and panic in the entire area, but caused no loss of human life.

The beleaguered Kabul government, which threatens to attack Pakistan, does not possess any Scud or other long-range missiles. This was disclosed at a meeting by the military officers of the Babrak Karmal and Najibollah regimes, who had fought against the Afghan mojahedin. It may be recalled that Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the de facto ruler in Kabul's Rabbani government, had alleged in an interview a few days ago that Pakistan was supporting the Taleban, and was directly involved in attacks against the Rabbani government. While making that accusation, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud also threatened to turn the face of his Scud missiles toward Islamabad and Peshawar if Pakistan did not stop interfering in Afghanistan. However, it is a fact that Afghanistan does not possess any Scud missiles.

After the collapse of the Najibollah regime, the mojahedin had, however, gotten hold of Scud missile launchers which they may still have. According to former Afghan military officers, whenever previous Afghan Governments needed to use Scud missiles against the mojahedin during the resistance movement against Russia, the former Soviet Union provided them with those missiles only according to their needs. It is said that the Kabul government used to send requests for Scud missiles only two or three days before their actual use, and the required number of missiles were dispatched to the assigned place only five to 10 hours before they were needed. The missiles had to pass through seven stages before being fired, and each stage was manned by a separate group of engineers and experts who were all Russians. Currently, Afghanistan has neither Scud missiles nor the experts to launch them. Under these circumstances, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's aforementioned threat is nothing but a bluff.

Minister Denies Involvement in Chechnya Fighting

BK2910142295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said Pakistan has been following closely the events in Chechnya and wants that the conflict should be resolved through peaceful negotiations. To a question by a correspondent in Islamabad today, he said Pakistan had welcomed the peace talks between the Russian and Chechen sides for finding a negotiated settlement of the dispute. He was hopeful that the peace process between the parties would be resumed soon to find a peaceful solution of the conflict. To another question, the foreign minister said Pakistan is not in any way involved in providing training to Chechen fighters, nor has Pakistan allowed its territory to be used for the transport or transit of any volunteers to Chechnya.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sri Lanka

President Reportedly Rules Out Peace Initiatives

BK2710135095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] COLOMBO, Oct 27 (AFP) — Sri Lanka Friday [27 October] announced it was gearing up for a decisive battle to capture the Tamil rebel heartland of Jaffna as the army reached the outskirts of the guerrilla-held town in the country's north.

Junior Defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte told Colombo-based ambassadors that the army's aim was to capture Jaffna, the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and restore civil administration.

"The minister told us that army was about five kilometres (three miles) from Jaffna," a diplomat at Friday's meeting here said. He quoted the minister as saying that the army was moving slowly out of consideration for civilians.

The remarks came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is currently visiting New York, confirmed that her military's biggest ever ground offensive was underway in the Jaffna peninsula and ruled out any fresh peace initiatives.

A military spokesman said guerrillas attempted to infiltrate an army defence line overnight but security forces repulsed the assault, killing at least 20 rebels for the loss of one soldier in the Jaffna peninsula.

The latest violence raised the military losses to 127 killed with more than 500 wounded in their current drive launched on October 17. The army claims to have killed more than 520 rebels.

Government claims of success in the latest campaign came as a shadowy Tamil group called the Ellalan Force renewed a threat against foreign investors and tourists visiting this Indian Ocean island republic. [passage omitted]

As the fighting escalated, the LTTE said in a statement received here from its London office that humanitarian organisations in Jaffna peninsula were seeking "safe havens" for civilians.

The Tigers said the call for "safe havens" was aimed at protecting "several hundred thousand refugees" moving into Thenmaratchi region located in the southern sector of the Peninsula.

The LTTE has estimated that more than 300,000 civilians have been made refugees. Western diplomats said that the prospects for negotiations and mediation had dimmed with the escalation of violence.

More than 50,000 people have died in the LTTE's protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions.

Military Spokesman Says LTTE Heading for Defeat

BK2710115795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe says that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is heading for a grave defeat at the hands of troops taking part in Operation Riviresa. He told a news conference yesterday that military intelligence indicates Prabhakaran is now hiding in Mullaittivu or Kilinochchi after fleeing the battle front. More than 500 terrorists were killed and 1,500 injured in confrontations with the security forces.

In response to questions at yesterday's weekly cabinet news briefing, Brigadier Munasinghe said the ultimate aim of the security forces is to liberate the entire Jaffna peninsula from the terrorists and restore normalcy. He categorically denied that there was a food shortage in the peninsula. The brigadier reported that 29 civilians were killed by terrorists in Chavakachcheri, Kilinochchi, and Madhu areas. Omantai School principal and grama sevaka [village headman] were also executed for allegedly providing information to the security forces.

Meanwhile, troops captured the Achchelu-Nirveli road at 1500 hours on Wednesday [25 October]. In a separate development, LTTE terrorists attacked a village of the Herat Hammillewa area, eight miles east of the (Kapitigollawa) in the Anuradhapura District, and killed 23 civilians.

Tigers Reportedly Call For 'Foreign Mediation'

BK2910090395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas have called for foreign mediation to end Sri Lanka's ethnic war as security forces stepped up an offensive against them.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said third-party involvement was necessary to remove mutual mistrust and resolve the conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The latest issue of the LTTE's organ, THE INSIDE REPORT, a copy of which was received here Sunday [29 October], blamed Colombo for rejecting mediation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

which the LTTE said had been offered by Australia, Britain, Canada, Norway and the United States.

The government ruled out foreign intervention after the LTTE rejected an offer to involve a retired French diplomat as an intermediary.

"It is indeed unfortunate that negative views concerning third party mediation dominates the thinking in Colombo... International mediation bestows recognition of the LTTE as representatives of the Tamil people...

"The government aims to marginalise and reduce the LTTE to a terrorist organisation or one group among many" THE INSIDE REPORT said adding that foreign governments should realise the consequence of a military solution.

THE INSIDE REPORT was dated October 16, a day before the military launched its biggest ever ground offensive code-named Rivirasa with the objective of capturing the town of Jaffna, the heartland of Tamil separatism.

A military spokesman said troops were consolidating in areas captured from the rebels and there had been no fresh advance over the weekend.

The military has lost 128 soldiers killed and over 500 wounded in the offensive and claims to have killed 500 guerrillas and wounded over 1,500 rebels in fierce ground battles.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, currently visiting New York, told a meeting there Friday that there was no scope for mediation in Sri Lanka's escalating ethnic conflict.

"One year ago we were foolish not to lay down conditions," Kumaratunga was quoted by THE DAILY NEWS as saying. She was referring to unconditional talks with the LTTE which eventually broke off a truce on April 19.

A moderate Tamil party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) said the LTTE should open fresh dialogue to end the fighting.

"The LTTE must now make its own proposals and do so early to prevent more destruction and tragedy," TULF spokesman A. Thangathurai said. The TULF leadership was wiped out by the LTTE in 1989.

Minister Said Intended Target of 'Terrorist' Attack

BK3010032895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Oct 95

[Report by Kamani Alwis — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Black Tiger who masterminded the terrorist attack on the oil installations in Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte has admitted that he had gathered intelligence for the execution of an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] plan to assassinate acting Defence Minister Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte and the navy and air force commanders.

The Black Tiger Romesh and one of his accomplices Thurairajah were arrested by the Vavuniya Security Co-ordinating Unit in Vavuniya, when they were on the run soon after blasting the oil installations. Romesh had come out with the assassination plan while being interrogated by the co-ordinating unit, security sources said.

Romesh was carrying with him the intelligence records on his would-be victims when he was nabbed in Vavuniya.

"We took another accomplice of Romesh at Dematagoda after he spilled the beans," sources said.

The strike plan on the oil installations had been chalked out at a grocery store in Dematagoda. The store had been purchased for Rs 90,000 in 1994. Thurairajah had been placed in charge of the store. Romesh who made occasional visits to Colombo earlier took up residence in the grocery store in September 1994 and remained there until the attack.

Romesh was assigned the job of planning the blasting of the oil installations by LTTE leaders Pottu Amman, Suresh and Charles during a conference in Kilinochchi early this year. various angles and handed the photos over to the then LTTE intelligence chief Pottu Amman. [sentence as received] Romesh reported to him directly.

It has also transpired that the LTTE finance unit diverted funds to Romesh through the Dematagoda store.

He had garnered information on Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte's security detail, vehicles and the routes used by the motorcade. He had an intimate knowledge about the minister's movements in the city.

Investigators have found that Romesh, who appears to be a Sinhala youth, is a fluent Sinhala speaker.

A number of LTTE cadres are believed to have visited Romesh's Dematagoda store very often. Among them were Black Suicide Tigers Master and Muththu.

Further on Uncovered 'Plot'

BK2810084095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0738 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 28 (AFP) — Police have arrested a Tamil guerrilla suicide-bomber

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and uncovered a plot to assassinate a top Sri Lankan minister directing the war effort against separatist rebels, officials said Saturday [28 October].

Perumal Romesh, a suicide-bomber of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has admitted to a plan to kill deputy defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte and military commanders, police said.

"Romesh has been been sent on several reconnaissance missions to Colombo by the Tiger leadership," Colombo's police chief, deputy inspector-general H. M. Kotakadeniya said.

"He has been asked to check on the houses and movements of important persons including the minister (Ratwatte)," Kotakadeniya said.

Romesh was in charge of the LTTE's October 20 rocket attack on two key oil installations in the capital and was arrested on the same day in northern Vavuniya, Kotakadeniya said.

At least 22 security personnel and seven LTTE fighters were killed in that rebel raid.

Romesh reportedly told interrogators that the LTTE planned to assassinate commanders responsible for the major offensive currently underway in northern Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula.

Security has been tightened in the capital amid fears of LTTE strikes on key government and military targets.

Police said they seized from Romesh "intelligence reports" of key personalities on the LTTE's hit-list including security arrang@Lents and movements of Ratwatte.

Ratwatte, is known to be high on the LTTE's hit-list together with President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

On Friday, Ratwatte told Colombo-based diplomats the offensive codenamed Rivirasa (Sunshine) was aimed at capturing the LTTE's main stronghold of Jaffna town and the army was moving slowly out of consideration for civilians.

Ratwatte's remarks came as Kumaratunga, who is currently visiting New York, said the Rivirasa offensive was the biggest anti-LTTE drive yet and ruled out a fresh peace initiative.

Thousands of troops Saturday massed in newly-captured areas in the peninsula amid "intermittent small arms and mortar fire," by the guerrillas, a military spokesman said.

He said an officer and a soldier were killed and ten others wounded Friday in "harassing fire" by LTTE rebels, raising to 128 the number of security personnel killed since the offensive was launched 11 days ago.

More than 500 LTTE fighters were killed in the same period, the military claimed.

Meanwhile, the anti-LTTE, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said the services of a "third force" was necessary to eliminate distrust and guarantee the implementation of agreements.

The EPRLF said both the military and the LTTE were killing in the name of liberation, and that if the present conditions continued to prevail Kumaratunga's "dream of peace will be meaningless."

However, Kumaratunga has ruled out foreign mediation to try to end the protracted ethnic conflict, which has left more than 50,000 dead.

In New Delhi, Indian authorities said they could not confirm reports that LTTE supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran had sneaked into the country by sea to escape the military offensive in Sri Lanka.

Prabhakaran, wanted in India for the 1991 assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, reportedly entered the southern state of Tamil Nadu, which is separated from the Jaffna peninsula by a small stretch of sea.

Gunmen Kill Tamil Deputy Mayor in Batticaloa

BK2710163995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1620 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (AFP) — Suspected rebel Tamil guerrillas on Friday [27 October] shot dead the Tamil deputy mayor of Sri Lanka's eastern town of Batticaloa while he was playing football, police said.

Thomas Anthony, 33, was kiled at Kallady, just south of the town, police said, adding they suspected the killing was carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Anthony represented the rival Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation whose members have cooperated with security forces in their drive against the LTTE, which is battling for independence in Sri lanka's northeast.

Top LTTE Leaders Flee as Operation Continues

BK2810121595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The top hierarchy of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], including its leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, have fled to Wanni in the face of the successful military operation Riviresa. Among them are political wing leader Tamil Selvan, deputy

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

leader Karikalan, and the chief of the finance division Tamilandi.

The people query as to whether these leaders could be considered as the savior and liberator of the Tamil community because of their escape. Soldiers point out that the only alternative the Tamil people have is to extend support to the armed forces who are further advancing to save them, since the leaders have fled leaving hundreds of dead bodies and thousands of injured cadres who fought on behalf of the LTTE. The troops are ready to give Tamils full protection.

With clandestine radio the Voice of Tigers going dead, the LTTE leadership as well as its cadres have lost communication. Reports say that the fleeing LTTE leadership was carrying cash and gold in bundles. At present, only the political leadership is left in the Jaffna town.

Meanwhile, Indian authorities said today that they were not aware of whether Prabhakaran had sneaked into the country to escape a military offensive as reports had suggested. A spokesman from the Central Bureau of Investigation, New Delhi's premier investigating agency, said that they had no information about Prabhakaran's reported entry into India. According to an AfP report, the spokesman was commenting on a newspaper report which said that the LTTE leader might have fled to India by sea.

Security Forces Resume Operation

BK2910112695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP) — Fierce fighting raged in northern Sri Lanka Sunday [29 October] as security forces resumed an advance on Tamil guerrilla positions, leaving at least 31 soldiers and 40 rebels killed, the military said.

Thousands of soldiers backed by armoured cars and artillery guns came across well fortified bunkers of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and a well laid out mine-field in the town of Neerveli, a military spokesman said.

"The Tigers offered stiff resistance as we began the advance at first light today. But we are pressing ahead. We have suffered 30 soldiers and one officer killed and about 35 wounded," the spokesman said.

He said ground troops confirmed killing at least 40 Tiger cadres in close-range hand-to-hand fighting and many more guerrillas were wounded.

The latest casualties raised army losses in the ongoing Riviresa (Sunshine) offensive to 159 soldiers killed and more than 500 wounded while the army's estimate of LTTE losses rose to 560 killed and more than 1,500 wounded.

The army's renewed push towards the LTTE-held town of Jaffna came as the rebels called for foreign mediation to end Sri Lanka's ethnic war.

The LTTE said third party intervention was needed to remove mutual mistrust and resolve the conflict which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

AFP Reports on Continued Fighting Near Jaffna

BK3010070095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0623 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 30 (AFP) — Thousands of soldiers began digging-in Monday [30 October] in a key town captured from Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka after an intense battle that left at least 91 dead on both sides, the military said.

Artillery guns and airforce planes bombed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) before ground troops captured the town of Neerveli in the Jaffna peninsula Sunday, a military spokesman said.

He said the army losses rose to 41 soldiers killed and about 50 wounded and the military had intercepted rebel radio communications giving the names of 50 Tigers killed in fierce close-quarter battles Sunday.

"There was overnight shooting but no close-range fighting. We have begun a process of consolidation. Still there are a few pockets of resistance in Neerveli," the spokesman said.

He said the military bombed and destroyed a base of the "Air Tigers" a new wing of the LTTE which is responsible for manning anti-aircraft guns and a unit also known to have acquired six microlight aircraft.

Neerveli is considered strategically vital for the Tamil Tigers as it is one of their best fortified forward positions defending the town of Jaffna, the capital of the Jaffna peninsula and the symbol of Tamil separatism.

The spokesman said security forces launched their advance Sunday after a two-day break which allowed them to consolidate in the area newly captured from the LTTE since the launch of the Riviresa (Sunshine) offensive on October 17.

"The Tigers offered stiff resistance as we began the advance at first light on Sunday. But we are pressing ahead," the spokesman said.

The latest casualties brought army losses in the ongoing offensive to 169 soldiers killed and over 500 wounded.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The government has signalled the offensive as a move to capture Jaffna at any cost.

The army's estimate of LTTE losses has now risen to 570 killed and over 1, 500 wounded. The military has not given figures for civilian casualties but a Roman Catholic priest who travelled from the region said about 35 to 40 had died.

The Tamil Tigers who are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions have vowed to defend the town of Jaffna to their last man.

More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since the birth of the Tamil separatist movement in 1972.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.